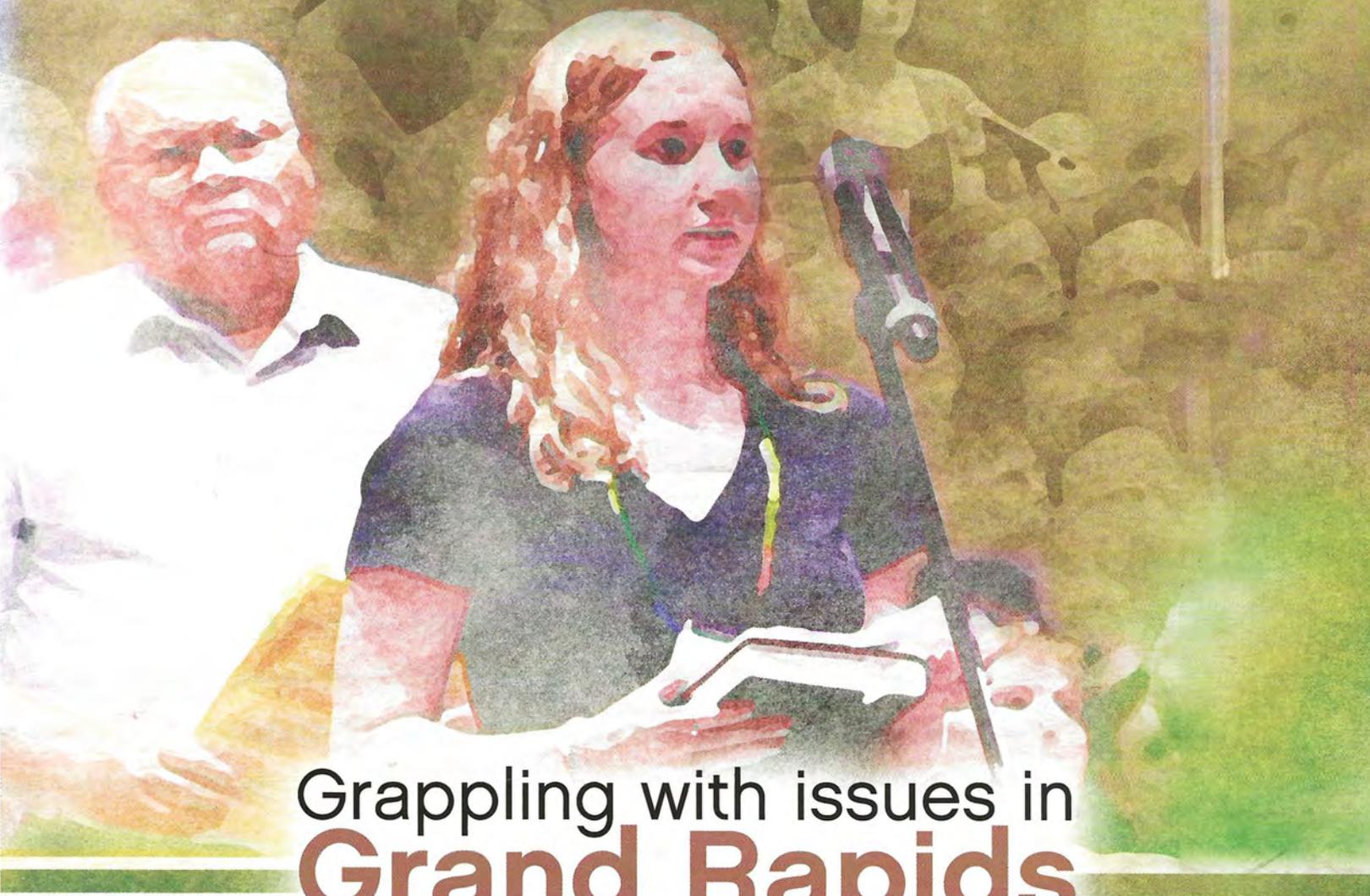


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Church of the Brethren

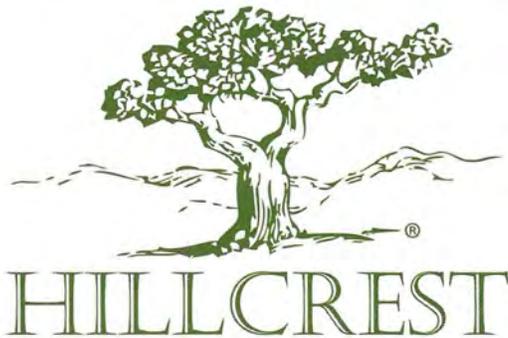
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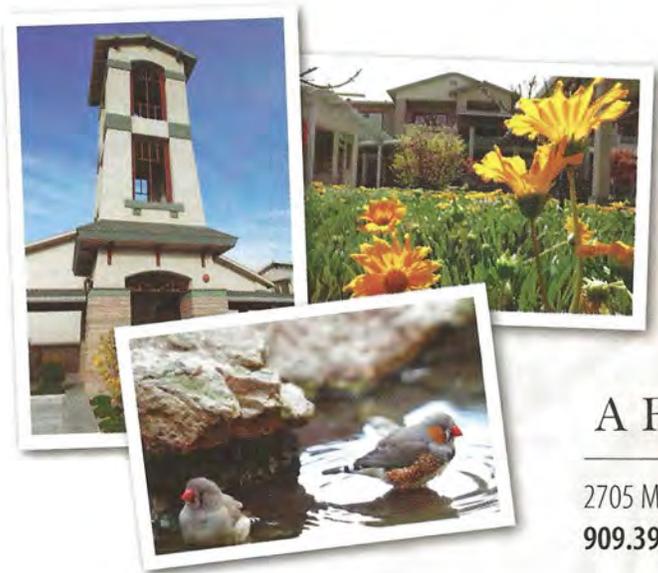
Grappling with issues in **Grand Rapids**

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Church
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Brethren

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Glenn Riegel



ONTHECOVER The Special Response process for dealing with controversial issues helped temper discussions on the floor of Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, Mich. Nevertheless, statements from the floor and elsewhere made it clear that certain matters, although legislated, remain unresolved in the denomination. *Photo by Glenn Riegel. Cover adaptation by Paul Stocksdale.*

DEPARTMENTS

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8 **Grappling with gritty issues in Grand Rapids**

The denomination’s two-year conversation about same-sex covenantal relationships via the Special Response Process came to a head at Annual Conference in Grand Rapids this summer. The outcome of the delegate vote brought a range of emotions, from relief and contentment to anguish and despair. While that issue was a major focus, it was not the only thing that drew Brethren to the table this year. Quilting, singing, spontaneous footwashing, Bible study, insight sessions, and the reuniting of friends and family reminded us of the common bond we share as Brethren.

16 **When violence is a cultural value**

It has been 10 years since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Since then, two wars have been waged as part of a ramped-up attempt to keep terror at bay. Have they had the desired effect? Is the world a safer place? Fear has been employed as a motivator on both sides. But one wonders what the Prince of Peace might have advised. Brethren staff members Joshua Brockway and Jordan Blevins offer their perspectives on alternative approaches to the way the world has responded.

18 **Brethren outreach as a two-way street**

Graydon F. Snyder, former dean and professor of New Testament at Bethany Theological Seminary and Chicago Theological Seminary, continues his MESSENGER Bible study series that examines what it means for a denomination to take the entire New Testament as its creed. In this, his sixth installment, Snyder takes a look at the roots of Brethren outreach to those in need, and how that concept has evolved in recent decades to acknowledge that those intending to give often find themselves the recipients of blessings they never anticipated.

20 **A new *Inglenook* Cookbook in the oven**

Something’s cooking at Brethren Press, and it’s a new *Inglenook* cookbook. How did the original cookbook come to be, and how can you be part of the new one?

It didn't take long to find a very cool bookstore in downtown Grand Rapids. It had new books, used books, sale books, fair trade tote bags—even lunch—and it was just two blocks from where the Brethren were meeting. Uh-oh, I said to the Brethren Press bookstore team. Don't tell anyone!

Competition or not, I was heartened to see a city with a bookstore like this. Any good bookstore is a treat, but I'm rooting especially for the homegrown ones that regard books less as commerce and more as treasures for their friends. I like the vibe in several that I've browsed recently—Schuler's in Grand Rapids, Malaprop's in

Asheville, Pages in Newton, Kan. And The Dusty Bookshelf in Lawrence, Kan., where my sister and I found a 1971 book illustrated by our great-uncle Chet.

I confess that I sometimes shop at Amazon. Buying books from the online behemoth is convenient and usually cost-efficient, but I feel regretful because a purchase there seems like a vote against independent bookstores and small publishers everywhere. Perhaps I am hopelessly 20th-century, but I like the idea that these little places cater to their communities and provide peculiar collections of the well-known and the obscure, the popular and the not.



WENDY McFADDEN
Publisher

Lots of people like the idea of hometown businesses, but unfortunately not always enough to patronize them and keep

them afloat. It's sad, but that's reality.

But sadder would be the notion of undoing the business from the inside. A recession is an understandable bogeyman; a systematic defunding by the owners would be heartbreaking.

Our polity—that is, the way we do business—in the Church of the Brethren allows congregations to call themselves Brethren even if they choose not to supply financial support, whether through apathy or antipathy. Those congregations are still allowed to call upon the services of the wider church, vote at Annual Conference, and benefit from the tax-exempt status and identity of the denomination. When congregations withhold financial support (and this can happen from congregations anywhere on the theological spectrum), they are chipping away at the whole church, including themselves.

Our polity already provides a basic description of the kind of spiritual maturity expected of elected leaders. Here's a modest proposal for some other expectations of leaders, and the congregations that vote for them: 1) Financial support of the core ministries of the Church of the Brethren. 2) Participation in at least one of those ministries. 3) A subscription to the official magazine of the church.*

Wendy McFadden

*Yeah, I know. Clearly I'm preaching to the choir.

HOW TO REACH US

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A free study guide for each issue of MESSENGER is available at this site, along with other information.

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Open Roof Award presented to Oakton Church of the Brethren

To members of the Oakton Church of the Brethren in Vienna, Va., disabilities are looked upon more as opportunities for inclusion than obstacles to growth.

Case in point: Upon hiring a new secretary with memory issues, the church worked with the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services to provide training and

basic workplace accommodations. An extensive training manual was developed, with detailed checklists for complicated tasks. Church members are encouraged to follow up by e-mail on all work requests.

And if a disability prevents someone from coming to church, bring the church to them. A weekday Bible study is held at the home of parents with a disabled infant, since medical issues prevent the parents from coming to church. Church members also provide respite care as needed for medical appointments.

Stories like these caught the attention of the people behind the Open Roof Award. Mark 2:3-4 (the story of people breaking through a roof to bring a paralyzed man to Jesus) was the inspiration for the creation of the Open Roof Award in 2004. Its purpose is to recognize a congregation or district in the Church of the Brethren that has made great strides in its attempt to serve, as well as be served by, people with disabilities. The Oakton Church of the Brethren embodies both of these aspects of service.

The award was presented during the Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board meeting prior to Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, Mich. Jonathan Shively, executive director of Congregational Life Ministries, and Heddie Sumner, a member of the Disabilities Ministry, presented the award to Paula Mendenhall, who received the award on behalf of the Oakton congregation.

—Donna Kline is director of the Church of the Brethren Deacon Ministry.



Oakton church members are awarded at pre-Conference Board meeting.

AROUND

Northeast The Atlantic Northeast District Spiritual Renewal Team will host a one-day Renovaré Essentials Conference at Elizabethtown College April 21, 2012. Richard Foster and Chris Webb will be co-leaders of the conference. Webb is an Anglican pastor from Wales. Foster, founder of Renovaré and author of *Celebration of Discipline*, is a leader in developing the Christian spiritual life.

Southeast A Life in Christ celebrated its first anniversary with a visit from Atlantic Southeast district executive Martha Beach, who dedicated the building and installed Leah J. Hileman as pastor. A Life in Christ is situated in a storefront at Del Prado Mall in Cape Coral, Fla., and runs all of its ministries out of the space, including Cuppa Life, where visitors are invited to enjoy Cuppa Life's fair-trade coffee, free Wi-Fi, a lending library, a yarn-craft corner, and an open mike night.

Midwest The Rock Run Church of the Brethren will hold its 47th annual Bazaar and Bake Sale on October 29 from 8:30 - 1:00 p.m. at the church, located at the corner of CR 38 and CR 33 southeast of Goshen. Items for sale include home-made baked goods, noodles, comforters, woven rugs, and crafts. All proceeds go to local charities.

Ozarks/Plains

Dan Elder was installed as pastor at St. Joseph (Mo.) Church of the Brethren June 12, during the morning worship service at the St. Joseph Church of the Brethren. District administrator Carolyn Schrock was present, as were congregation leaders James Smith, moderator, and Jim Dennison, board chair. Elder has served the St. Joseph congregation as pastor for the past several years as he has worked to obtain his ordination through his former denomination, the Baptist Church, and has done special study on Brethren history and beliefs.

West A "Friends Center" is being built on the campus of the First Church of the Brethren in San Diego, Calif. Designated as a center for peace, social justice, and spiritual growth, the Friends Center will be an energy-efficient building featuring solar power, water recycling, and other energy-efficient components. Joining the San Diego Brethren in the project are the Friends Meeting (Quakers), the Peace Resource Center, and the American Friends Service Committee US-Mexico Border Program. It will be the first permitted straw bale building to be constructed in central city San Diego.

InTouch

Do you have district or congregational stories that might be of interest to MESSENGER? Short items with a photo are best. Send them to MESSENGER, c/o In Touch, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120 or messenger@brethren.org.



YOU SAID IT

"All of us are teachers whether we are aware of it or not."

—Lois Grove, minister of leadership development, Northern Plains District

BY THE NUMBERS

35,000

Number of photographs and negatives in the Brethren Historical Library and Archives

92-year-old volunteer sews 1,000 diapers for Haiti

At 92, an age when most people would have long since slowed down, Dixie Duffie is still going strong. A longtime member of the South Waterloo (Iowa) Church of the Brethren, Dixie has survived two husbands, raised four children, worked in a shoe store, and been an usher for the National Cattle

Congress and the UNI-dome football stadium at the University of Northern Iowa campus. Along the way, she also took sewing lessons from her daughter-in-law—a skill that has come in especially handy lately, when she discovered that diapers were in short supply in Haiti.

No stranger to volunteer work, Dixie has chalked up nearly 9,000 volunteer hours at Covenant Medical Center. She has also used her sewing skills for RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Persons), making walker bags and adult bibs. For many years, she pieced quilts for lap robes (about 50 every year) that were then tied by the South Waterloo Church women during the winter.

Then this spring, Dixie heard about a need for diapers at a Haitian children's home. It turns out her pastor, David Whitten, had acquired the pattern for making diapers while attending a Northern Plains District board meeting. To date, Dixie has helped make more than 1,000 diapers by hand. Once the community

learned of the project, donations of T-shirts, Velcro, elastic, thread, and monetary gifts poured in. Volunteers from Dixie's church have helped cut pattern pieces.

The completed diapers are delivered to the Sacred Heart Haiti Mission in Minnesota, and from there flown to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. At one children's home/hospital, 800 diapers are used per day. They are washed by hand and hung outside overnight to dry. Each diaper generally lasts through 100 washings. This means there is a need for 8,000 diapers every 100 days at this particular home alone. There are 10 such homes in Haiti serving the poorest of the poor. Diapers are used for babies, older handicapped children, and for bedridden adults in the Home for the Destitute and Dying.

Dixie says she likes to stay busy and doesn't like to spend her days watching television. She would rather be helping others. Hundreds of babies in Haiti can be grateful for that.



Dixie Duffie sews diapers for Haitian children.

VBS becomes intergenerational at Little Swatara

Since 1929, children have come to vacation Bible school (VBS) at Little Swatara Church of the Brethren in Bethel, Pa. Each year, a service project is chosen and all the offerings go to that project. This year, materials from "The Kingdom of the Son" presented an African safari theme. Along with their Bible lessons, the students learned of children in Africa who sometimes had no adequate clothing to wear.

With that in mind, "Little Dresses for Africa" was chosen for the offering project. For each \$25 in offering, three simple dresses were made and hung in the front of the sanctuary. As the interest of

the children increased, the pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters clinked into the offering baskets. Dollar bills and checks followed. It soon became evident that the VBS staff could not keep pace with sewing the little dresses.

Before long, VBS became an intergenerational activity, with women from 15 to 86 busy making dresses.

Soon, 55 little dresses hung in the sanctuary. The women have caught the enthusiasm of the children and are continuing their sewing, giving hope and clothing to children in Africa who had neither.—**Jean Myers, Little Swatara Church of the Brethren**



Little dresses for Africa are displayed in the Little Swatara Church of the Brethren sanctuary.

REMEMBERED

S. Loren Bowman, 98, former general secretary of the Church of the Brethren, passed away on June 17. He was general secretary of the denomination for almost a decade, from July 15, 1968, until his retirement Dec. 31, 1977. At the time of his death he was living in La Verne, Calif.

In total Bowman spent 19 years in church administration, having been executive secretary of the Christian Education Commission for 10 years until his appointment as general secretary. During that time he led development of group life programs, and curriculum planning built on a congregation defining its own educational goals. He worked with college administrators to establish Brethren Colleges Abroad. He also served on various units of the National Council of Churches, including the Division of Christian Education, Department of Educational Development, and Division of Christian Unity.

He was named acting general secretary for four months in early 1968, during the illness and subsequent death of the previous general secretary Norman J. Baugher.

Bowman was born Oct. 7, 1912, in Franklin County, Va., to Cornelius D. and Ellen Bowman. He was a graduate of Bridgewater (Va.) College, earned bachelor and doctor of divinity degrees from Bethany Theological Seminary (then Bethany Biblical Seminary), and did graduate work in religious education at the University of Pittsburgh. In 1935 he married Claire M. Andrews.

He served in eight pastorates over the course of his career, and prior to his

employment on the denominational staff was a member and chair of the former General Brotherhood Board, elected at the 1952 Annual Conference. He was licensed to the ministry in 1932, ordained in 1933, and made an elder in 1942.



S. Loren Bowman

He was author of the book *Power and Polity Among the Brethren: A Study of Church Governance* and wrote a membership study book, *Choosing the Christian Way*. He served on the editorial board of *Brethren Life and Thought* and was on the committee that produced *The Brethren Hymnal*. In 1969 he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters

degree from Bridgewater, and in 1977 received the college's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

On retirement as general secretary, his citation noted the "key frontiers" of his administration: "One was to regard diversity or pluralism within the church as a source of enrichment. Another was to seek to consolidate established programs in order that new priorities could be addressed. A third was to structure the general secretariat so that power would be shared and authority delegated in a team approach."

In his work as general secretary, he was remembered for the question, "Is the usual enough?" He oversaw a major reorganization of the former General Board, which included a large turnover of staff, putting an emphasis on a team approach to administration, greater flexibility in program, closer coordination of overseas ministries, and heightened response to mission in the world.

He was quoted in a 1977 newspaper

article, during his last year as general secretary, as saying to the Annual Conference that new understandings of how the planet and its people are tied together inseparably in creation, and finding a new way of life on this planet, is a foremost task of the church.

In retirement, he continued to advocate creative thinking in the church. He wrote occasional pieces for *MESSANGER*, including an August 1984 column on "Looking Beyond the Usual," calling the church to search for a more holistic approach to life, and an opinion piece in October 1993 advising, "We should be talking about the nature of our diversity."

A memorial service was held June 24 at La Verne (Calif.) Church of the Brethren.

Kaysa Joanne (Anderson) (McAdams) Meeks, a former treasurer and business manager at Bethany Theological Seminary, died July 1 after a struggle with cancer. She was residing at the Brethren Retirement Community in Greenville, Ohio. Born April 10, 1938, she grew up in Hartford City, Ind., and attended Ball State University. She was married to Larry McAdams from 1963-80 and lived in Tipp City, Ohio, until 1988. She worked for DAP, inc., and received her MBA from the University of Dayton. After graduation, she was promoted to production manager for DAP and relocated to Chicago, Ill. She then worked for Bethany Seminary and relocated with the school to Richmond, Ind., until retirement. In 2002, she married Dan Meeks. She was a longtime member of the Middle District Church of the Brethren (Good Shepherd) and Oakland Church of the Brethren in Bradford, Ohio. A memorial celebration was held July 9 at Oakland Church of the Brethren.

LANDMARKS & LAURELS

Georgia Markey will begin Oct. 1 as acting district executive in Southern Pennsylvania District. Markey will serve as the district's placement officer and will be the contact for churches and ministers needing support and/or placement services. The associate dis-

trict executive position currently held by Markey will be eliminated effective Sept. 30, 2011.

Jenny Williams has been named director of communications and alumni relations at Bethany Theological Seminary as of July 1.

Since 2008, she has held the position of Advancement Office coordinator and coordinator of congregational relations, working primarily with data management and communication to Churches of the Brethren and other donors.

Testing the process, trusting the Spirit

When we met in Grand Rapids this summer, we gathered around the table to share, receive, and learn. Individuals reporting from the stage took painstaking effort to clearly articulate the results of the Special Response process hearings that occurred over the past year. The work of the Forms Reception Committee and the Standing Committee reflected thoughtfulness, thoroughness, and considerate treatment. The delegates



BELITA MITCHELL

expressed genuine respect and appreciation for these efforts. There was a conciliatory tone in the room at the opening phase of the Special Response process discussion.

But as the discussions of the Special Response items progressed, an odd feeling permeated the atmosphere. It seemed as though everyone was acutely aware of the potential for combustible behavior and took care to demonstrate restraint.

This restraint was marked by noticeable frustration as delegates struggled to understand and properly adhere to the Special Response process. The combination of these restrained feelings and visible frustration resulted in a subdued tension. The process appeared worthwhile, yet there was obviously room for improvement. Since it was the first time anyone had experienced doing business in this way, the progression through the

and impassioned “sidebar” conversations sprang up throughout the venue. Hopeful expectations had been deflated and replaced by a pall that hovered over the remaining proceedings like a thick fog.

Just as some expressed feelings of sadness, others expressed relief. Traveling around the country last year, I interacted with many who feared a possible split over the Special Response process. Open conversations airing the pros and cons of such an action abounded. It seemed younger and newer members of the church were less frightened of a potential split than more senior individuals. Those who have held membership for at least 50 years and trace their Brethren heritage back two generations or beyond were burdened with dread about the possibility of division. When Standing Committee’s recommendation and the ensuing action of the delegate body reverberated over the Internet, they collectively breathed a sigh of relief. The desire to preserve an intact denomination prevailed. The reluctance to claim “winners and losers” resulted in the *tacit* sigh of relief. Undoubtedly, there is lingering tension. We still face the challenge of engaging in meaningful conversations with one another.

We came to the table; we shared in respectful conversation during the business deliberations on the Special Response process. We experienced the graced moments of worship and fellowship as blessings from God; and we learned that still, in the midst of our differences of opinions, in the midst of our diverse gifts, through Christ Jesus, “we were all made to drink of one Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:13:b). Certainly, it is because of the Holy

THERE WAS A PAINFUL HEAVINESS IN THE AIR AS TEARS WERE SHED AND IMPASSIONED CONVERSATIONS SPRANG UP THROUGHOUT THE VENUE.

steps was tenuous at times. Nevertheless, we were all at the table, we shared in respectful conversation, and we tested a process that served us well—up to a point.

I sensed many participants came to Grand Rapids longing to have the Special Response items resolved through acceptance by the delegate body. They hoped for new light on the topic of human sexuality, or at least an acknowledgment that we are not all of one mind. However, the delegates’ decision to return both items was unsettling for those who held these expectations. The feeling of restrained tension was replaced with a heavy sense of disappointment, sadness, and, for some, anger and sorrow. These feelings seemed to supersede any feelings of relief that a split had been averted. There was a painful heaviness in the air as tears were shed

Spirit that we were able to convene in Grand Rapids with hope.

I believe it is because of the Holy Spirit and the desire to “maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph 4:3), that we will continue to seek wholeness and healing for our brokenness. Some may cease active involvement in the denomination. Still others will find renewed energy to pursue the work of reconciliation. Through it all, may we strive to love one another, trusting the Spirit of God to lead us into all truth. May we uphold one another as sisters and brothers in Christ. Practicing forbearance, may we persistently explore ways to extend the table. **AM**

Belita Mitchell is pastor of Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren in Harrisburg, Pa. She is a former moderator of the Church of the Brethren.

QUOTE WORTHY

“If you love teaching, this is the best place you can possibly teach.”

—John Deal, assistant professor of economics at Manchester College, after *The Chronicle of Higher Education* placed Manchester on its “Honor Roll of 2011 Great Colleges to Work For”

“You should go to camp at least once before you die!”

—Payton Williams, age 14, Cedar Creek Church of the Brethren, Citronelle, Ala., during a youth-led worship service at Southeastern district conference, July 23, 2011

“We need to take our work seriously, but ourselves lightly, especially when times are difficult. Nurturing our sense of humor is not only good for our health; it also helps us to continue our mission with greater joy—and a cheerful heart.”

—Jep Hostetler, in “Is laughter really the best medicine,” August issue, *Sojourners*, at www.sojo.net

“If we don’t act now, famine will spread to all eight regions of southern Somalia within two months, due to poor harvests and infectious disease outbreaks.”

—Mark Bowden, World Food Program humanitarian coordinator for Somalia

“During the Special Response process . . . what I noticed was that our hearts were cracking open. Some were cracking in pain, some in anger, and some were simply opening to a new light.”

—Linda Alley, spiritual director and ordained minister, and wife of 2011 Annual Conference moderator Robert Alley

“It is time for people of faith and good will to speak up, and it is time for some politicians in Washington to grow up.”

—The Rev. C. Welton Gaddy, president of the Interfaith Alliance, expressing the frustration of religious leaders who were arrested at a protest about the debt impasse at the Capitol on July 28 (as quoted by the Associated Press). Jordan Blevins, advocacy officer & ecumenical peace coordinator for the Church of the Brethren and the National Council of Churches, was among those arrested.

CULTURE REVIEW

➔ Americans want their presidents to be religious, but many have trouble identifying the faiths of President Obama and leading GOP contenders Mitt Romney and Rep. Michele Bachmann, according to a poll released July 25 by the Public Religion Research Institute in partnership with Religion News Service. A majority of Americans (56 percent) say it’s important for a candidate to have strong beliefs, even if those beliefs differ from their own. Yet the religious groups most firmly behind this point—white evangelicals (73 percent) and ethnic minority Christians (74 percent)—often falter when asked about politicians’ religions. For instance, just 44 percent of white evangelicals know that Romney is a Mormon. At the same time, more than 8 in 10 evangelicals say Mormon religious beliefs greatly differ from their own.

➔ United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s **UNiTE to End Violence against Women** campaign aims to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls in all parts of the world. UNiTE brings together a host of UN agencies and offices to galvanize action across the UN system to prevent and punish violence against women.

➔ According to a new Gallup poll, only 40 percent of Americans surveyed would support a law prohibiting health clinics that provide abortions from receiving any federal funds. Only one-third of respondents polled by Harris Interactive/Health Day in 2011 think that Planned Parenthood should be defunded, compared to 55 percent of voters who said the organization’s funding should be kept in place.

➔ “As the U.S. continues loading its jails and looking for new places to build larger prisons, we should be asking more questions,” says Howard Steven Friedman, a statistician and economist for International Organizations at Columbia University. In an article posted on www.huffingtonpost.com, he asks, “Why does the U.S. need so many more prisoners than other countries? Why does our incarceration rate keep growing even though crime rates are so much lower than decades ago? Why do we eagerly spend so much money on building jails yet feel so comfortable cutting back basic supports for the poor and working class?”



JUST FOR FUN: MATCHING

FOLLOW THE LEADERS The past few years have been a time of transition for the presidencies at many of the Church of the Brethren’s institutions of higher education. Match the college, university, or seminary on the left with its current or soon-to-be president on the right. Answers are printed below.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Bethany Theological Seminary | a. Devorah Lieberman |
| 2. Bridgewater College | b. Jo Young Switzer |
| 3. Elizabethtown College | c. Michael P. Schneider |
| 4. Juniata College | d. Ruthann Knechel Johansen |
| 5. Manchester College | e. Thomas R. Kepple Jr. |
| 6. McPherson College | f. George Cornelius |
| 7. University of La Verne | g. Carl J. Strikwerda |

ANSWERS: 1-d (begin July 2007); 2-f (begin July 2011); 3-g (begin summer 2011); 4-e (begin July 1988); 5-b (begin July 1988); 6-e (begin April 2009); 7-a (begin July 2011)

AC2011



Grappling with gritty issues in Grand Rapids

Delegates at the 2011 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference, meeting in Grand Rapids, Mich., July 2-6, on the theme, "Gifted with Promise: Extending Jesus' Table," dealt with an array of issues. Key among them were the topics under scrutiny during a two-year Special Response process. Moderator Robert Alley led delegates through discussion of this and other items of business, which at times departed from Robert's Rules of Order in an attempt to streamline dialogue.

The two items that had received attention during the Special Response process dealt with human sexuality. They were: "A Statement of Confession and Commitment," and "Query: Language on Same-Sex Covenantal Relationships." The Conference approved the following recommendation from the Standing Committee of district delegates, and an amendment that added a sentence to that recommendation:

"In light of the Special Response Process, as outlined by the 2009 paper 'A Structural Framework For Dealing with Strongly Controversial Issues,' the Standing Committee recommends to the 2011 Annual Conference that 'A Statement of Confession and Commitment' and 'Query: Language on Same-Sex Covenantal Relationships' be returned. It is further recommended that the 2011 Annual Conference reaffirm the entire 1983 'Statement on Human Sexuality from a Christian Perspective' and that we continue deeper conversations concerning human sexuality outside of the query process."

The final decision approved the recommendation to return both items of business to the sending bodies, and included the amendment made by James Myer, a leader in the Brethren Revival Fellowship.

Coverage of the 2011 Annual Conference is by the News Team of Jan Fischer-Bachman, Mandy Garcia, Karen Garrett, Amy Heckert, Regina Holmes, Frank Ramirez, Glenn Riegel, Frances Townsend, and editor and news director Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford. Wendy McFadden serves as executive director of Brethren Press. Contact cobnews@brethren.org.



Regina Holmes



Regina Holmes



Regina Holmes

The Standing Committee recommendation to return both items of business was put on the floor the morning of Tuesday, July 5, in Step 4 of the five Special Response steps with which the two business items had been processed. Myer was the first at the microphone with his amendment, the only one that was adopted by the delegate body.

Many more amendments and motions were made as the session extended into the afternoon business time, but all were rejected in a process in which the delegates were asked to vote whether or not to process each motion before discussion was allowed. Numerous points of order were called from the microphones, as well as questions of clarification, and challenges about how the Special Response business was conducted.

Presentation by Forms Reception Committee

The Forms Reception Committee, a subcommittee of Standing Committee, brought its 12-page report summarizing the Special Response hearings that have been held across the denomination.

The committee, made up of chair Jeff Carter, Ken Frantz, and Shirley Wampler, presented what they characterized as a qualitative as well as quantitative analysis of responses received during the process. "We wanted to model transparency" in providing the information, Carter said.

Responses were reported to the committee by means of standardized forms filled out by the notetakers and facilitators

of the hearings, which were organized by Standing Committee members in each district. Additional people responded via an online response option and the sending of letters, e-mail, and other communications. The committee said it gave greater weight to the

responses received through hearings.

The committee handled over 1,200 pages of material, Carter reported, representing 6,638 people who took part in 121 hearings, which included 388 small group meetings.

"These hearings were characterized by respect," Frantz said as he reported the methodology of the committee in analyzing the responses in four areas: structural elements such as the way hearings were held, common themes and statements such as the tenor of conversation, contextual elements such as Brethren heritage and understandings, and statements of wisdom.

"We like numbers," Carter said, "but this is a qualitative study, meaning that it's very difficult to count votes when you're talking conversation."

He and the other committee members presented an analysis that about two-thirds of the Church of the Brethren supports the "Statement of Confession and Commitment," with

Threat made during Annual Conference

A credible death threat was received by an attendee of the 2011 Annual Conference during the event held in Grand Rapids, Mich. The recipient of the threat is a gay person, and the threat made reference to the person's sexuality.

The person had been receiving harassing e-mail communications for about a year in advance of the Conference. Onsite in Grand Rapids, the victim received threatening notes slipped under the hotel room door. The nature of the threats escalated onsite.

A statement about the threat was shared with the whole Conference at the start of the extra evening business session on July 5, which had been made necessary by the length of time earlier in the day for Special Response discussions related to human sexuality.

Police investigated both the e-mails and the threatening notes. To date no identification has been made of the perpetrator.



Cathy Huffman and Bob Kettering presenting the Standing Committee recommendations.

about one-third rejecting it; and that about two-thirds want to return the "Query: Language on Same-Sex Covenantal Relationships," with about one-third wanting to accept it.

That finding was qualified by a number of others, including that the reasons for people's attitudes toward the two business items varied considerably; that "the majority of the denomination is in the middle," as Carter put it; that over half of the hearing groups were not of one mind; that many hearings focused instead on the 1983 statement on human sexuality; that there is general weariness with the conversation; and that great love for the church was expressed.

"The threat and fear of split is palpable," Frantz said. "Many

of you cautioned against a vote that would create that split." Later during the time for questions he added, "There's a really strong, steady desire to remain in unity with one another. It was very clear."

The Special Response process itself was "a life-giving, thought-filled conversation," Carter said.

Following the reports, the Forms Reception Committee and Standing Committee received many affirmations for their work. Some questions of clarification asked particularly about the two-thirds, one-third analysis, and there were requests for additional data such as more information about the ages of people taking part in the hearings.

Decision to 'return'

In response to a question asked about what it means to "return" a business item, Conference secretary Fred Swartz answered that to recommend return is one of seven possible responses for Standing Committee to make to an item of new business.

To return an item may indicate several things, he said, among them that Standing Committee feels the concern has already been answered, or that the concern may not be appropriate, or that the concern has prompted another way of responding other than a simple yes or no. In this case, he told the delegates, Standing Committee feels the concern was answered in another way.

To return an item of business is not synonymous with rejection, he emphasized, adding that the Forms Reception Committee report indicates that both the query and statement served a valuable function.

Bob Kettering and Cathy Huffman were the Standing Committee members who presented the recommendation. Kettering explained that the committee is counseling congregations and districts to continue discussion and to refrain from forwarding queries about sexuality to Annual Conference. "At

Board sends Afghanistan resolution to Conference, sets reduced budget parameter for 2012

In a partial-day meeting on July 2, the Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board approved a resolution on Afghanistan that was sent for adoption to the Conference (see above story), sharply reduced the budget for 2012, heard reports, and participated in presentation of this year's Open Roof Award.

The board approved a parameter for the 2012 budget that requires reductions of \$638,000 to achieve a balanced budget in the Core Ministries Fund. Approval of the detailed, line-item budget of \$4.9 million will be delayed beyond the usual October timeline in order to accomplish the reductions. A need to reduce the 2012 budget had been anticipated by staff and board doing financial planning over the past year.

Among other business items, the board heard reports from Bethany Theological Seminary president Ruthann Knechel Johansen, who represented the church at the International Ecumenical Peace Conference in Jamaica, and board member Andy Hamilton, who participated in a delegation to celebrate the completion of 100 homes in Haiti.

Ben Barlow is beginning a two-year term as board chair, with Becky Ball-Miller serving as chair-elect. Other members selected for the Executive Committee were Andy Hamilton and Pam Reist.

this moment there may be better and healthier ways ...to seek the mind of Christ," he said.

Huffman responded to a question about whether the Standing Committee report, which advocates forbearance, means there should be no punitive response to congregations engaging in discussion of sexuality.

The Standing Committee report affirms relationship with one another, she responded. "As congregations we respect our differences," she said, giving examples of congregations that differ on women in pastoral leadership or participation of members in the military. She went on to add that congregations have freedom to follow the Spirit and to invite anyone to be part of them without fear of censure.

Resolution on war in Afghanistan

The Annual Conference adopted a resolution on the war in Afghanistan. The resolution was received from the Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board, which had approved it during a partial-day meeting on July 2. The board forwarded the resolution on Afghanistan immediately the same morning to the Standing Committee of district delegates for Annual Conference consideration.

The last time the Church of the Brethren spoke on Afghanistan was when the General Board issued a resolution after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The current resolution has been made in part because of encouragement from the National Council of Churches and ecumenical colleagues to provide a peace church response to the war in Afghanistan.

The resolution calls on the President and members of Congress to begin an immediate withdrawal of all combat troops, and to instead invest resources into the development of the Afghan people and infrastructure.

A list of six other recommendations urge the Church of the Brethren to become more engaged in areas such as humanitarian aid, alternatives to violence, ministry to those affected by the war, interfaith and intercultural dialogue, and study, prayer, and action related to just peacemaking.

Congregational ethics

In response to the "Guidelines for Implementation of the Congregational Ethics Paper" query adopted in 2010, a study committee brought recommendations to this year's Annual Conference.

The committee recommended that the 1993 "Ethics in Congregations" paper be reviewed, revised, and updated. The revised document would also include guidelines and suggestions for a denominational process of accountability. The report recommends "that these revisions be facilitated by Congregational Life Ministries staff in collaboration with the Council of District Executives and the Office of Ministry."

Joshua Brockway, director of spiritual life and discipleship, presented the report. He remarked that although other

Elections

Robert Krouse, pastor of Little Swatara Church of the Brethren in Bethel, Pa., was elected to the position of moderator-elect. He will serve as moderator of the 2013 Annual Conference.

Other elections and appointments:

Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board:

Becky Rhodes, Roanoke, Va. (Area 3); Jerry Crouse, Warrensburg, Mo. (Area 4); W. Keith Goering, Wilson, Idaho (Area 5). *Appointments confirmed:* Janet Wayland Elsea, Port Republic, Va.; Don Fitzkee, Manheim, Pa.; Patrick C. Starkey, Roanoke, Va.

Bethany Theological Seminary trustees: Jonathan Frye, McPherson, Kan. (representing colleges); D. Miller Davis, Westminster, Md. (representing laity). *Appointments confirmed:* Gregory W. Geisert, Harrison-burg, Va.; David W. McFadden, North Manchester, Ind.

Brethren Benefit Trust Board: John Waggoner, Herndon, Va. *Appointment confirmed:* Craig H. Smith, Elizabethtown, Pa.

On Earth Peace Board: Patricia Ann Ronk, Roanoke, Va. *Appointments confirmed:* Madalyn Metzger, Bristol, Ind.; Louise Knight, Harrisburg, Pa.

Committee on Interchurch Relations: Torin Eikler, Morgantown, W.Va.

Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee: Herb High, Lancaster, Pa.

Program and Arrangements Committee: Cindy Laprade Lattimer, Antioch, Va. (named after Thomas Dowdy was elected and then resigned).



The new moderator and moderator-elect are consecrated for 2012: kneeling at right is moderator Tim Harvey, at left is moderator-elect Bob Krouse.



Conference by the numbers

- **3,200** final registration number for the 2011 Annual Conference. This number includes 861 delegates.
- **388** peak number of online viewers of Annual Conference webcasts, during the Tuesday afternoon discussion of Special Response business. Other points of high participation in the webcasts were the Sunday evening business session (348 for Step 1 of the Special Response process) and the Tuesday morning session (346 for Step 4 of the process).
- **185** people at the new delegate orientation.
- **150** walkers and runners in the annual 5K Fitness Challenge sponsored by Brethren Benefit Trust, on Sunday morning, July 3. Nathan Hosler was the overall winner for the second year in a row, coming in with a time of 17:24. Chelsea Goss finished at 21:43, claiming the first spot for female runners. Don Shankster was the first-place male finisher of the walking race with a time of 33:08. Paula Mendenhall took the first-place female walker with a time of 36:30.
- **Two** new fellowships and two new congregations were welcomed by Annual Conference: Renacer Roanoke, Va.; Peace

Covenant Church, in the "triangle" area of Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill, N.C.; Light of the Gospel Fellowship, Brooklyn, N.Y.; and Mountain Dale Church in West Marva District.

- **\$53,352.33** received in the Conference offerings during worship, in a preliminary number yet to be confirmed by the Conference office.
- **Two** mini quilts and five quilted wall hangings auctioned for \$5,085, to raise funds for hunger and the Global Food Crisis Fund.
- **\$3,240** raised in a silent auction of the district comforters that were brought as an offering during the first evening of the Conference. The original idea was to donate the comforters to Church World Service (CWS), but after seeing their beauty and quality Conference-goers suggested that a silent auction could raise money to buy many more blankets for CWS. The total raised by the silent auction will buy 648 CWS blankets.
- **314** pounds of food representing 241.5 meals given in Monday evening's offering of food to the West Michigan Food Bank. The junior and senior high groups helped to collect the offering and load it for transfer to the food bank.
- **Ten** denominational staff, family members, and friends bicycled from Elgin,

denominations have long had policies regarding ministerial ethics, the Church of the Brethren may have been the first to adopt an ethics document for congregations. He also noted that going as far back in history as the book of Acts, Christians have met together to consider actions of faith and how to live out Christian values and principles.

A question from the floor concerned whether the revised and updated paper would come back to Annual Conference for approval. Brockway stated that it would come back for Conference action. He added that in the meantime, he expected a thorough process of consultation and review, which would take more than a year's time to accomplish.

Proper decorum

Following the custom for the moderator-elect to handle one item of business, Tim Harvey presided over discussion of the query on proper decorum. This query petitioned the Annual Conference to have rules of proper decorum relating to persons' positions on issues before the Annual Conference.

Ill.—location of the Church of the Brethren General Offices—to Grand Rapids, Mich., to attend Annual Conference. The two-day bike trip took a route via Milwaukee, Wis., and the ferry across Lake Michigan. Bicyclers included Nevin and Maddie Dulabaum, Becky Ullom, LeAnn Wine, Debbie Noffsinger, Anna Emrick, John Carroll, Joe Liu, Jeff Lennard, and Randy Miller.

- **October 15** is the deadline to submit recipes for a new Brethren Press project. In an announcement titled "What's Cooking?" Conference-goers found out that a new "Inglenook Cookbook" is coming and Brethren Press needs recipes. Since 1901, the "Inglenook Cookbook" has been a tradition passed from generation to generation. The new cookbook looks to follow in that tradition by assembling the best recipes from today's kitchens. To find more visit www.inglenookcookbook.org.
- **\$1,000** donated by a generous supporter of Brethren Press to provide gift certificates to Conference-goers this year to stock church or camp libraries. Four \$250 gift certificates were won by Ridgely (Md.) Church of the Brethren; Northview Church of the Brethren in Indianapolis, Ind.; Elm Street Church of the Brethren in Lima, Ohio; and Camp Alexander Mack.

The concern arose as for the past few years many people have been wearing things at Conference to signal their stance on contentious issues. The recommendation from Standing Committee was that the query "be returned with appreciation and that the district be referred to the section in the Annual Conference booklet entitled 'Accountability to One Another.'"

Responses from the floor included much discussion of the rainbow and black and white scarves being worn. Some people deplored them for being divisive, but comment was also given that they were helping stimulate good conversations between persons with different views. One delegate reminded the body of the biblical call to mutual submission and respect for one another.

Standing Committee's recommendation that the query be returned was adopted on a voice vote.

Climate change

The query asked for Conference's position on climate change and for guidance about how individuals, congregations, and the denomination can take concrete action and offer leadership on this issue. Standing Committee's recommendation was that the query be adopted and referred to the Brethren Witness office, part of the Church of the Brethren's Global Mission Partnerships.

During debate, a couple of amendments were proposed but none were adopted. One would have provided more detail about how the Washington office would handle this assignment, and asked that a progress report be made to a future Annual Conference. Another, which was determined to be a substitute motion, would have returned the query to the district. Several spoke in

favor of it, most because they did not believe that human-caused global warming has been established as scientific fact.

Vision statement

A denominational vision statement for the decade was brought by a task team that has been working on its formulation, and was presented by several members of the group: Jim Hardenbrook, Bekah Houff, David Sollenberger, and Jonathan Shively.

The statement reads: "Through Scripture, Jesus calls us to live as courageous disciples by word and action: To surrender ourselves to God, to embrace one another, to express God's love for all creation." It was presented in a booklet that included related resources, a study guide suitable for use by congregations, and ideas for how to implement the statement.

Two Standing Committee members, Ron Nicodemus and James R. Sampson, were appointed to the task team to help prepare for presentation of the statement in 2012. The vision statement also will be sent to the church agencies for their planning prior to the 2012 Conference. **W**

Regina Holmes



David Radcliff of New Community Project helped answer questions about the query on climate change.

Worship speakers

Glenn Riegel



"As we begin this Annual Conference, some of us may be asking if this is the best of times or the worst of times. But... the issue is whether we will discover the gift of Jesus Christ and extend the table."

Robert Alley, moderator, Saturday worship speaker

Regina Holmes



"We have to remember: We are the body of Christ, not the corpse of Christ!"

Craig Smith, Sunday worship speaker

Glenn Riegel



"Will you allow God to use you as a gift to the nations?"

Samuel Sarpiya, Monday worship speaker

Regina Holmes



"It is not our table. It is God's table."

Dava Hensley, Tuesday worship speaker

Glenn Riegel



"Paradoxically, soul growth and soul strength may emerge from failure, depression, and loss."

Stan Noffsinger, Wednesday speaker



Glenn Riegel

**Moderator-elect
Robert Krouse**

Why I said yes

by Robert Krouse

These few weeks since I received the call to serve as moderator-elect have been a bumpy ride. Everyone who attended Conference this year expected a woman to be elected. The ballot presented by Standing Committee included the names of two women, and if my name hadn't been added, one of them would have been elected. I deeply regret the hurt and disappointment this has caused those who had hoped for a different result.

That sense of disappointment was magnified for those who believe nominations should not come from the floor. Some feel

that floor nominations could manipulate the call process initiated by Standing Committee. I don't share that opinion. I believe nominations from the floor both strengthen and complete the call process. It has been our practice to empower people rather than give power to a process. We believe Christ is never more present among us than when we are gathered as the body. The business of conference is to seek the mind of Christ, and we believe this is done best within, rather than outside, of the gathered body.

On hold: Female leadership in the Church of the Brethren

by Wendy McFadden

An Annual Conference ballot with two female candidates for moderator-elect seemed to guarantee a female moderator in 2013. But the election went to a man, Robert Krouse, who was nominated from the floor by former moderator Jim Hardenbrook. As one Tweet said: "Only way a woman can get elected at #cobac2011 is if they run against another woman. Today, not even that worked."

While there have been a few nominations from the floor in previous years, there is only one other time in Annual Conference history when the ballot consisted of two women and the winner was a man nominated from the floor. That was in 1978.

So how hard is it for the sisters to be elected by the Brethren? From three decades of reports in MESSENGER and ballots collected in the Brethren Historical Library and Archives, here is a quick overview of how women fare in Annual Conference elections.

How the nomination process works

In our Church of the Brethren polity, Standing Committee (which is made up of district delegates to Annual Conference) acts as the nominating committee of Annual Conference. To carry out this task it selects a subcommittee of itself, called the Nominating Committee. The church at large is invited to submit nominations beginning immediately after Annual Conference.

The Nominating Committee meets in January to prepare a ballot with four names for each position. This ballot is mailed to members of Standing Committee, who vote by mail and narrow the ballot to two names for each position. This ballot is presented to delegates at

Annual Conference. Though not required by polity, it is customary for the moderator to entertain nominations from the floor.

Nominations from the floor

Apparently nominations from the floor used to be fairly common, since in 1981 MESSENGER reported with some surprise that there were none that year. But it has not been particularly common since then. Following is a list—perhaps incomplete—of nominations from the floor for the position of moderator-elect:

2011: Robert Krouse is nominated from the floor. He is elected over Mary Cline Detrick and Carol Spicher Waggy.

1993: Phill Carlos Archbold is nominated from the floor. The original ballot of two males and two females had been narrowed by Standing Committee to two females. Judy Mills Reimer is elected. (Archbold goes on to be elected in 1999.)

1983: Joan Deeter is nominated from the floor. James Myer is elected over Guy Wampler, Jr., and Deeter.

1979: Leon Neher is nominated from the floor. Duane Ramsey is elected over Patricia Helman and Neher.

1978: Candidates on the ballot are Phyllis Carter and Anita Metzler. William Eberly, M. R. Zigler, and James Flora are nominated from the floor, and Eberly is elected on the second ballot over Phyllis Carter after a first round eliminates the other three.

Women as moderators

The election of women (and other underrepresented groups of people) has been a stated concern of the Church

Before accepting the nomination, the question I wrestled with most was, "Am I open to God's call?" That is why I allowed my name to go on the ballot, trusting the delegate body to discern the call.

What might I bring to the office of moderator? I have a strong identification with Paul's testimony to the Corinthian church: "When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified," (1 Cor 2:1).

Once, as a young sailor, I became lost in thick fog off the New Jersey coast. For a couple of hours my little boat drifted through the fog. When the fog horn of a larger vessel sounded in the distance, I prayed (read shouted), "Help me, Jesus!" When the fog lifted, I was miles from where I thought I should be.

I'm concerned that our church has been drifting along, pulled by the current, wondering where we are headed, afraid we might take the wrong direction. Loud voices call out to us from the fog: "Watch out! Stay away! Move left! Stay to the right!"

We all want to find the way. We just don't know how to get there from here.

I have a simple yet radical suggestion. Let's decide to know nothing but Jesus Christ and him crucified! That will mean setting aside personal agendas and agreeing to resolutely seek to discover the agenda of Jesus Christ. May we set aside the things that hinder us and the sin that entangles us so we can run the race that is before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, who knows the way and will lead us through the fog. 

Robert Krouse is pastor of Little Swatara (Pa.) Church of the Brethren.

of the Brethren for over 30 years. The 1979 Annual Conference adopted a statement on elections that called for "a more equitable participation of all of our people" in the elected offices of the church. That concern was also the focus of the "Call to Accountability for Equality of Representation on Annual Conference Ballots," last reviewed in 1999, and a copy of this call to accountability is included in the delegate packet every year.

In the years since 1980, the Nominating Committee has included women for the position of moderator-elect all but seven times. Most years this first ballot includes names of either one or two women; in 2005 the ballot listed four women and in 2010 it had three. Over this time period, the committee has nominated 43 women and 85 men, and in its voting Standing Committee has increased this ratio by choosing 28 women and 36 men. In other words, those involved in bringing names to the delegates are taking seriously the denominational call to accountability.

Nevertheless, in these 32 years, the delegates have chosen a woman as moderator only six times. Two (Phyllis Carter and Judy Mills Reimer) were elected over a man.

(It's worth noting that the first woman to be elected an Annual Conference officer was Phyllis Kingery Ruff, who was elected in 1977 as Annual Conference secretary and served 10 years.)

The picture is similar for the rest of the ballot (which includes elections for members of various boards and committees in addition to moderator-elect). When one woman is running against one man, the man is elected 80 percent of the time. This year, that percentage was 100 percent.

What next?

After three decades, perhaps a new direction is in order. If Annual Conference still strives for what it committed itself to in 1979, it could take a cue from the rest of the ballot.

Board members for Bethany Theological Seminary are elected from the categories of ministry, laity, and colleges. Most members of the Mission and Ministry Board are selected by geographical area. The Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee includes categories of pastors and laity. More notably, the last two Review and Evaluation Committees (1995 and 2000) were elected in categories of male and female.

Through simple methods the church has worked at achieving the diversity it cannot find through a traditional voting process.

Standing Committee could also recommend that Annual Conference abandon the tradition of accepting nominations from the floor. This would honor the careful nomination process, which gives full voice to every individual, congregation, and district in the church.

If the Church of the Brethren wants a woman to ever again serve as moderator of Annual Conference, it must move to a system that makes it possible. Women should no longer be asked to sacrifice themselves for a ballot of hollow promises. 

Female moderators

Elaine Sollenberger (1989) (she served again in 1998, substituting when a moderator needed to step down for health reasons)

Phyllis Carter (1992)

Judy Mills Reimer (1995)

Emily Mumma (2000)

Harriet Finney (2003)

Belita Mitchell (2007)



When violence is a **cultural value**

by Joshua Brockway

[Ten years after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, where has the US come as a society with regard to safety, security, faith, and tolerance? We asked two of our Brethren leaders to consider this question from a Brethren perspective. Joshua Brockway is director of spiritual life and discipleship for the Church of the Brethren. Jordan Blevins is advocacy officer and ecumenical peace coordinator for the Church of the Brethren and National Council of Churches. —Ed.]

Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword." (Matthew 26:52)

We often hear this story during the days between love feast and Easter Sunday. Following their last meal together, Jesus and the 11 disciples

retreat to the garden. The act of betrayal alluded to at the table is brought to life as a mob from the chief priests and elders comes to overtake Jesus.

Possibly thinking that the moment for revolt had arrived, or just wanting to protect this friend and teacher, one reaches for a sword to strike the first blow. It was also the last. With a stern voice, Jesus rebukes this act of violence as a means to an end.

Yet, he does not just question the use of force. Jesus describes what we might refer to today as the cycle of violence: "for all who take the sword will perish by the sword." Students of the early church are quick to remind us that this text witnesses to the deep commitment to nonviolence of the first Christians. At the same time, though, Jesus' words are not just descriptive of an individual ethic or moral imperative for the church, but a robust assessment of what happens when violence is actually a

A **daring response** to violence

by Jordan Blevins

The National Council of Churches recently asked, through the title of a paper, "What is a Christian Understanding of War in an Age of Terror(ism)?" We could reframe that question a bit: "What is a Brethren response to violence and terror 10 years after Sept. 11, 2001?"

These are the words and the witness of the Church of the Brethren, through the General Board, just over one month after the Sept. 11 attacks:

Creating a world of peace and security for all is a monumental task—one that can only be undertaken through the empowerment of God's Spirit and with the extraordinary commitment of God's people. We call on our congregations and members to recommit themselves to seeking peace in their daily lives and relationships, to reaffirm the historic Church of the Brethren objection to war, to prayerfully consider their

loyalties to their nation in light of their prior loyalty to God, to work for justice in the global community, and to creatively and nonviolently challenge the prevailing belief that the application of force is the path to enduring peace.

It is a vision that we are still called to live into 10 years later, as it is a vision that does not reflect the world in which we live. Ten years later, the United States is a country that has conducted two wars in response to the attacks, costing more than 1 trillion dollars; has engaged in practices that dehumanize other brothers and sisters created by God; and has generated a culture of fear. The question for us, on the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, is how do we actually give flesh to these words? How do we live so as to create "a world of peace and security for all"?

Throughout its history, the Church of the Brethren has been active in standing against vio-

cultural value. In other words, a violent culture only breeds more violence.

In the political debates about the United States' military presence in Afghanistan, the cost of war is often limited to dollars and the lives of American service members. These are true and tangible costs. It should be asked, however, what the additional costs are to a society that has been at war for 10 years. What are the physical, emotional, and spiritual effects on a people who have been in a constant state of conflict for such an extended period of time?

Now, 10 years from the horrors of the attacks on New York, Washington, D.C., and rural Pennsylvania, we are still at war. We live in a cultural state of fear, reinforced each time we enter an airport or turn on the news. Our rhetoric has escalated to the point of outright anger and abuse. Our society lives in what many call a culture of death. Writer Henri Nouwen points to this culture when he says that "death is solid, uniform, unchangeable. It is also big, boisterous, noisy, and very pompous" (*Road to Peace*, 42). It captures our attention and slowly shapes our imagination to perceive death and violence as a means to a similar end. To borrow the title of Chris Hedges' book, war is a force that gives us meaning. After so long, war comes to define the way we see the world and act within it.

Few things can be further from the Christian witness to life and resurrection. Just a few decades

after the resurrection of Christ, Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, bringing together passages from the prophets Isaiah and Hosea: "When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?'" (1 Cor. 15:54-55). The Christian witness, as he points to here, is one based on life in spite of death. This was and remains a radical shift to see the world in terms of life, since life is ordinary and often does not command attention like the clatter of war.

There are many today who claim to be radical and speak of peace, but persons of faith must ask just what kind of peace is being offered. Is it a peace which stems from life or from a culture of death? As Thomas Merton penned years ago, "God left them with what they desired, for their idea of peace was only another form of war (*New Seeds of Contemplation*, 59). Ours is a true resistance and prayer for peace as it seeks to counter the turn toward death. This "resistance becomes a truly spiritual task only when the 'No' to death and the 'Yes' to life are never separated" (Henri Nouwen, *The Road to Peace*, 49).

Can we "put the sword back into its place"? Can we speak of life in this cycle and culture of death? ❗

lence and war. We have consistently said that it is sin, that it is contrary to the message of the Gospels. What we haven't done as well is live into the vision that God has for this world. What we haven't done is make our vision of an alternative reality practical and realistic. This is our call as we consider how we live with a Brethren voice 10 years after Sept. 11.

Our Brethren response to a violent world is often dismissed as unrealistic. But Margot Kassmann, while reflecting on the Decade to Overcome Violence, reminds us, "people who believe and hope in this way cannot but be touched by the world's suffering, the plight of so many whose right to existence is trodden underfoot. People who believe and hope can find the inner energy and strength and the will to bring about change, even if only by small steps. They are not ready simply to accept the pragmatism of an unjust and violent world" ("Creative Thinking for Peace or Blessed are the Peacemakers," *The Ecumenical Review: March 2011 Peace on Earth-Peace with the Earth*, p. 6).

We need to live into these statements not only because they are inherently realistic, but because they are grounded in what we believe. As Glen Stassen reminds us, "it teaches that when we do

peacemaking deeds as Jesus commands, we are participating in the great drama of God's redemption of the world through the Lamb: Do the deeds of Jesus" (*Just Peacemaking: Ten Practices for Abolishing War*, p. 21).

So, what does this mean? It means engaging in interfaith dialogue across our country and around the world as we consider how to live in a post-9/11 world. It means holding public International Day of Prayer for Peace services (see onearthpeace.org). It means advocating that our nation invest in preventing future conflicts rather than just responding to them. It means believing that, through the power of God, we can start changing the world. But most of all, it means living in relationship with the rest of the world around us.

The International Ecumenical Peace Convocation issued this challenge: "We as churches are in a position to teach nonviolence to the powerful, if only we dare. For we are followers of one who came as a helpless infant, died on the cross, told us to lay aside our swords, taught us to love our enemies and was resurrected from the dead." The question for the Church of the Brethren, 10 years after Sept. 11, 2001, is simply this: "Do we dare?" ❗

Brethren outreach as a two-way street

by Graydon F. Snyder

[This Bible study by Graydon F. Snyder is the sixth installment in a series that examines how the Church of the Brethren's acceptance of the New Testament as its creed has worked over the centuries, and what it implies for us today. —Ed.]

Although perhaps best known for being one of the three historic peace churches (along with the Quakers and the Mennonites), the Church of the Brethren has also placed considerable emphasis on service to those in need. Much of the time this has been done quietly, as Brethren tend not to “toot their horn” very loudly, but work behind the scenes providing outreach to those who are hungry, thirsty, or overlooked by society.

Early Brethren not only cared for each other, but they gradually developed programs of assistance for the needy outside of their own community. This tradition of service has its roots in a long and deep biblical heritage. From its earliest days, persons in the Jewish culture who owned fields were urged to leave food and straw for those who stood in need.

“When you reap your harvest in your field, and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over the boughs again; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow. When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not glean it afterward; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow” (Deut. 24:19-21).

Jesus made this divine admonition even stronger. It is not a matter of leaving behind some valuable things for the less fortunate to pick up. Instead, the follower of Jesus should sell what she or he has and give that to those in need.

Jesus said: “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me” (Matthew 19:21). In that way, a Christian helps the needy. But the admonition of Jesus is even stronger. What if the needy person you know is actually an enemy? How do you treat such a person? Jesus made a remarkable statement:

“On the contrary. If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”

This well-known Jesus saying has confounded many readers. Why would Jesus give food and drink to nourish a so-called enemy, and then punish the so-called enemy by heaping burning coals on the person's head? Well, it is not so simple. To be sure, we find it hard to understand the “coals of fire,” but it is not to be taken in a negative sense. We read in Proverbs 25:21-22 a positive use of the strange phrase: “If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.”

Clearly we are urged to prepare meals for those who are hungry. Apparently, coals of fire references the process of cooking a meal. But why this appears to deal only with an enemy is not clear.

As we have seen, the Brethren gave mutual assistance to each other from the beginning. And soon they also helped those who did not belong to the faith community. The Brethren started relief activities at an early stage. As early as 1788, Annual Conference instructed Brethren to share with both Brethren poor as well as overseas needy. After the Civil War, Brethren collected funds for and supplied resources for all involved—North and South, white and black. Eventually, these relief efforts of the Brethren took on a programmatic quality. The Brethren Service Commission helped establish what became the well-known Civilian Public Service.



"WHEN YOU REAP YOUR HARVEST IN YOUR FIELD, AND FORGET A SHEAF IN THE FIELD, YOU SHALL NOT GO BACK TO GET IT; IT SHALL BE FOR THE STRANGER, THE FATHERLESS, AND THE WIDOW . . ." Deut. 24:19

Among the Brethren working for peace and reconciliation, none was better known than Dan West, a farmer from Preble County, Ohio. He attended Brethren schools, as did many other peace activists. Then he started summer Peace Camp with well-known "brothers" like Chauncey Shamberger, Perry Rohrer, and Al Brightbill. The most striking result of West's efforts was the unusual decision to send, in 1944, expectant female animals to people in needy areas, such as Spain. The offspring from these donated animals were passed on to another nearby family. This idea struck fire. This outreach, known as Heifer Project (today, Heifer International), was best known historically for sending the shipments of heifers to Germany after World War II in 1945.

Today, Heifer International sends around the world a variety of needed animals like bees, goats, water buffalo, and many others. Later, Brethren service took other directions. Brethren collected food and clothing as well as animals to share with people in war-torn areas. Then, in about 1950, the procedure reversed itself. Needy people in poor areas started to make handcrafted items which they sent to the United States to be sold in international gift shops—a program entitled Sales Exchange for Refugee Rehabilitation Vocations (now known as SERRV).

This give-and-take relationship with those in need has evolved in other ways, as seen even in our Brethren work-camps of today, in which groups—often students—are encouraged to visit developing countries and engage in service projects. They go with well-intentioned hopes of giving out of their own abundance to those who have little. Such intentions are admirable. However, once they come face-to-face with those on the "receiving end" of their service, they often come to realize that they are enriched in ways they had not expected. The gifts they receive from their newfound friends may not be tangible, but they are often life-changing.

We can see that the relationship to those in need can take on a multifaceted role. To be sure, those who have more than others can share animals, food, clothing, even housing. At the same time, those who have less money and fewer goods can and often do richly bless those who come into their communities intending to help them. If hearts are open, riches and blessings tangible and otherwise can be shared both ways. **W**

Graydon F. Snyder, now retired and living in Chicago, Ill., was dean and professor of New Testament at Bethany Theological Seminary and Chicago Theological Seminary. He is an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren and author of many books, including *Ante Pacem: Archeological Evidence of Church Life Before Constantine*.

A new Inglenook Cookbook in the oven by Wendy McFadden

Who was “Miss Inglenook”? That question was posed in the November 1984 *MESSENGER*, which pictured on its cover the Dunker cook from the 1901 *Inglenook Cookbook*.

It took no time to learn from a couple of readers that Miss Inglenook was Anna Evans Wilson. Nobody seemed to know how she got onto the cover of the first Brethren cookbook, but *MESSENGER* now knew her lineage, some of her descendants, and the fact that she had died in Oakland, Calif., in 1928.

That distinctive *MESSENGER* cover in 1984 was illustrating a story on Thanksgiving with the Plain people, written by Richard M. Harley and reprinted from the *Christian Science Monitor*. The main character in Harley’s description of a big Thanksgiving family reunion was Isaac Clarence Kulp. A Pennsylvania Dutch historian, Kulp took

the opportunity to introduce a new generation of family members to the culinary delights of their ancestors, their stewardship of nature, and their care for those less fortunate.

Good cooking goes back a long way in the Church of the Brethren. The Brethren are credited with likely having the first church kitchens, thanks to our ordinance of love feast. So perhaps it’s no wonder that we also published this early cookbook. The 1901 cookbook and an enlarged version in 1911 together sold more than 100,000 copies.

Surprisingly, the *Inglenook Cookbook* was not originally the main event. It was a byproduct of

The Inglenook magazine, a weekly publication launched in 1900 that invited readers to submit recipes. This led to publication of the cookbook, which was offered as a bonus to subscribers of the magazine. (*The Inglenook Doctor Book*, which followed two years later, contained 916 home remedies for “ailments of not sufficient gravity to warrant sending for a physician.”) The magazine folded in 1913, but the cookbooks are still in print.

Recently some Brethren foodies suggested that it’s time for a new *Inglenook® Cookbook*, and Brethren Press decided they were right. This time around, the publishing house is using 21st-century technology. While Brethren are still being invited to submit recipes, as before, this time they’ll submit them via a website (where they can also sign up to be a tester).

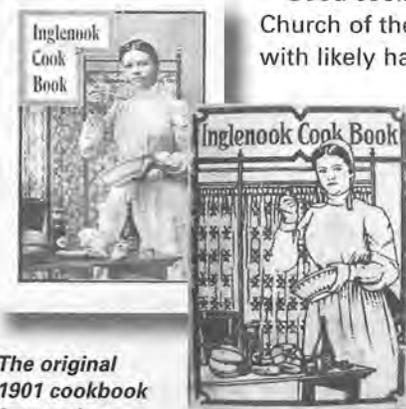
Like its predecessors, the new *Inglenook Cookbook* will celebrate simple living, wholesome cooking, and the blessings of community. In that vein, at www.inglenookcookbook.org people may also share a brief memory about food and fellowship. The website also offers “wit and wisdom” from the old *Inglenook* magazine, curious recipes from the original *Inglenook Cookbook*, and a history of the Inglenook series.

The recipes in the first cookbook were—with just one exception—submitted by women. This time around, Brethren Press is hoping for more diversity. For that reason, the online form asks for age, sex, and congregation. (That way, editors will be able to encourage recipes from, say, young men who live in Idaho.)

Recipes are requested by Oct. 15. Completion of the new cookbook is planned for early 2013.



Cover of the December 1900 issue of *The Inglenook* magazine.



The original 1901 cookbook featured a photograph of Anna Evans Wilson as an iconic Brethren cook. In 1911, the cover showcased an illustrated version of the photograph.

Submit recipes
 at www.inglenookcookbook.org
 Send recipes by Oct. 15.
 Keep up with the project via
www.facebook.com/inglenookcookbook





Jordan Blevins (center, light suit) prays with other religious leaders in the Rotunda of the US Capitol building.

Brethren peace witness director arrested at Capitol

Jordan Blevins, director of peace witness for the Church of the Brethren and the National Council of Churches, was among nearly a dozen faith leaders arrested inside the US Capitol building in Washington, D.C., July 28, in a protest against government budget cuts. Despite repeated warnings from the US Capitol police, the demonstrators refused to end their public prayers asking the Administration and Congress not to balance the budget on the backs of the poor.

"We are citizens first and foremost of the realm of God," Blevins said. "Sometimes living into that reality puts us at odds with what is happening in our country. This is one of those times. When steps Congress is taking contradicts our call as followers of Jesus Christ, we must take action."

Inspired by a common spiritual conviction that God has called on all Americans to protect the vulnerable and promote the dignity of all individuals living in society, the faith community has worked alongside the United States government for decades to protect those struggling to overcome poverty in the US and abroad. Without a sustained federal commitment to these programs, the interfaith leaders fear that their faith communities will be unable to solely

support the country's most vulnerable in their time of need.

The religious leaders sang "Spirit of the Living God" and "We Shall Overcome" as they knelt and prayed in the Capitol rotunda. As they were being arrested, Rep. Chellie Pingree (D.-Maine) announced on the floor of the House of Representatives that religious leaders were being arrested for standing up for persons in poverty.

The Church of the Brethren has a history of standing with the poor in such circumstances and, in 2000, the Annual Conference adopted a statement affirming the need to encourage the government to extend assistance to those in need: "We recommend that congregations use their experience in ministry with the poor to inform themselves of the legislative and political issues having impact on the poor and speak to those issues with their legislators at local, state, and national levels. The biblical witness and our own experiences as a community of faith suggest that there is a corporate or societal responsibility to deal with the problems of the poor, such as the Year of Jubilee. This extends beyond personal, hands-on responses and includes advocacy on behalf of the poor."

Coalition says houses of worship can't cover cuts to programs

An interfaith coalition of religious leaders has launched a new campaign to encourage policymakers to maintain a robust US commitment to domestic and international poverty programs. The group includes Church of the Brethren general secretary Stan Noffsinger.

To kick off the campaign, the leaders sent letters to President Obama, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, House Speaker John Boehner, and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, stating that "People who are served by government programs—those who are poor, sick, and hungry, older adults, children, and people with disabilities—

should not bear the brunt of the budget-cutting burden."

The coalition is concerned that the Administration and Congress are enacting a budget deal that will place an undue burden on the poor "while shielding the wealthiest from any additional sacrifice."

More than 25 heads of communion and national religious organizations are taking part. The campaign announcement featured leaders of the National Council of Churches, Church World Service, Presbyterian Church (USA), Jewish Council for Public Affairs, Leadership Conference of Women Religious, and Islamic Society of North America.

The 18-month public policy campaign will urge Congress and the Administration to exempt programs that assist at-risk families and children in the US and abroad from budget cuts.

The letters from the religious leaders make it clear that religious groups would be unable to make up the difference in funding if the government further cuts or eliminates assistance programs. They warn that without a sustained federal commitment to federal- and state-run assistance programs, religious organizations and houses of worship, while doing their best, cannot be the sole support for the country's most vulnerable.

Students return from Haiti with new perspective

The road to Haiti for five McPherson (Kan.) College students, started when the college challenged its students to take 10 days and come up with a sustainable venture to help the people of Haiti. In this "Global Enterprise Challenge," 30 students worked together in six assigned teams on several proposals. The winning team members each won a scholarship and the opportunity to travel to Haiti.

The winning team consisted of Tori Carder, Steve Butcher, Nate Coppernoll, Melisa Grandison, and Ryan Stauffer. They were accompanied by Kent Eaton, provost, and Ken Yohn, associate professor of history. Their winning concept—called



"Beyond Isles"—was to create a community market that would incorporate a physical market on the ground in Haiti as well as open up global markets through the Internet.

After arriving in Haiti, however, the plan changed. The team landed in the earthquake-damaged capital of Port-au-Prince, then traveled over land and by boat to the community of Aux Plaines on Tortuga Island, where the Church of the Brethren has a local church. A member of the Aux Plaines community is now a member of the Church of the Brethren in Florida, and she acted as a guide during the team's time in Haiti.

In Aux Plaines, it became apparent that the people of Haiti had greater immediate needs and that substantial improvements in infrastructure would be necessary to make "Beyond Isles" a reality. In meeting those immediate needs, the students helped the Haitian community to dig out a pond, worked with children in the local school, and built connections.

Eaton said the team gained a clearer understanding of the complexity of the needs in the Aux Plaines community, and that the relationships that developed would be critical in future work on Tortuga Island. "Sharing shovels and space together, it was a way to say, 'This project is so important, we want to help you with it,'" he said. "We're willing to get up to our knees in mud to help you with it." It forms the foundation for a significant relationship. —Adam Pracht is coordinator of development communications for McPherson College.

OEP seeks 200 churches for Day of Prayer for Peace

International Day of Prayer for Peace is the day to start stopping violence and building reconciliation in your community. On Earth Peace is looking for at least 200 congregations and community groups—anywhere on the planet—to hold public prayers about community or global violence during the week of Sept. 21.

As of July 12, 42 congregations and community groups have registered with the campaign, including groups in South Africa, Nigeria, Sudan, the DR Congo, and across the United States. Eleven events so far are being organized by youth or young adults.

On Earth Peace nonviolence organizer Samuel Sarpiya reflects: "Since Alexander Mack, our mandate as the Church of the Brethren is to be peacemakers—not to just sit idly by and think thoughts about peace, or stay out of things but to step in. In a generation that is marred with so much violence, we must unite our voices and our hands to work

together to stop violence and bring reconciliation. We're calling on the church to step up, to make this a distinctive and a declaration of who we are as Brethren in this time."

Registration is free and online at www.onearthpeace.org/idpp. The International Day of Prayer for Peace is sponsored by the World Council of Churches as part of its Decade to Overcome Violence, and takes place on the same day as the UN International Day of Peace. — Matt Guynn is program director for On Earth Peace.

Next church webinar is on 'Befriending a New Vision'

"Befriending a New Vision" is the title of the next Church of the Brethren webinar scheduled for Sept. 27 and 29. Roger Shenk will share from his experience of walking with a congregation through discovery and renewal while honoring its tradition. Shenk is pastor of Bahia Vista Mennonite Church, a 60-year-old church in Sarasota, Fla., that, in 2009, began to

take steps in revitalizing its approach to ministry.

The topic will connect with many leaders and congregational members as a candid discussion about leading an established church through the process of renewing itself without dishonoring the past or the people who still find meaning in it. Subjects will include the roles of prayer and preaching, how to befriend new people who question doctrines that Brethren identify around, helping people navigate the fears of displacement, and the principle of "the Fridge."

Webinar times are 3:30-5 p.m. (ET) or 12:30-2 p.m. (PT) on Sept. 27, with content repeating Sept. 29 at 8-9:30 p.m. (ET) or 5-6:30 p.m. (PT). A continuing education credit of 0.1 is available through the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership.

Go to www.brethren.org/webcasts. For more information contact Stan Dueck, director of Transforming Practices for the Church of the Brethren, 717-335-3226 or sdueck@brethren.org.



BVS Office

BVS UNIT 293 Orientation was held at the New Windsor Conference Center in Maryland June 12-July 1. Three of the volunteers are going to Europe and one is going to Japan. Left to right: Elizabeth Heiny of Long Beach, Calif., to Casa de Esperanza de los Niños in Houston, Texas; Vanessa Jasik of Hamburg, Germany, to Bridgeway in Lakewood, Colo.; Julianne Funk Deckard of Hickory, N.C., to Small Steps in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina; Lina Berger of West Salem, Ohio, to San Antonio, Texas, Catholic Worker; Rachel Buller of Comer, Ga., to Meeting Ground in Elkton, Md., and then Asian Rural Institute in Tochigi-ken, Japan; Kailynn Clark of Yellow Creek Church of the Brethren in New Enterprise, Pa., to Brethren Disaster Ministries in New Windsor, Md; Samantha Carwile of Anderson (Ind.) Church of the Brethren to Quaker Cottage in Belfast, Northern Ireland; Charles Carney of Kansas City, Kan., to Companion Ministries in Kansas City, Kan.; Courtney Klosterman of Gilbert, Ariz., to Quaker Cottage in Belfast, Northern Ireland; Don Knieriem (staff); Katarina Eller of Ephrata (Pa.) Church of the Brethren to San Antonio, Texas; Catholic Worker and then Brot und Rosen in Hamburg, Germany; Andreas Nowotny of Stuttgart, Germany, to Abode Services in Fremont, Calif.;

BBT board calls new leadership following resignation of its chair

Brethren Benefit Trust (BBT) board chairwoman Deb Romary unexpectedly resigned from the BBT board of directors on July 5, immediately following the action by the Annual Conference delegate body on two business items related to issues of human sexuality. She had served as chairwoman since July 2010. She was elected by the BBT board in November 2010 to serve a second four-year term; that election was affirmed on July 4 by the Annual Conference delegate body.

"It was with great sadness that I resigned from my position as chairwoman and a member of the Brethren Benefit Trust Board," she said in an interview on July 10. "However, factors beyond my control that impacted the work I was performing, as well as my family and the

BBT board and staff, made it imperative that I resign."

"With Deb's unexpected departure from the board, we have lost a capable leader as well as a friend," said Nevin Dulabaum, BBT president. "Deb helped shape many key decisions at BBT over the past four years, and she will be sorely missed."

The BBT board met July 6 for its regularly scheduled reorganization meeting, and called Karen Orpurt Crim to serve as chairwoman for the next year. Ann Quay Davis was elected vice chairwoman and Nevin Dulabaum was elected secretary. The board also elected BBT's corporate officers: Nevin Dulabaum, president; Scott Douglas, vice president; John McGough, treasurer; and Donna March, secretary.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Sept. 5-9 National Older Adult Conference, Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center, Lake Junaluska, N.C.

Sept. 15-17 On Earth Peace Board of Directors Meeting

Sept. 18 Bethany Theological Seminary Sunday

Sept. 21 International Day of Prayer for Peace

Sept. 24, Deacon Training, Oakton Church of the Brethren, Vienna, Va.

Sept. 25-Oct. 14 Brethren Volunteer Service Fall Orientation Unit, Brethren Service Center, New Windsor, Md.

Oct. 2 World Communion Sunday

Oct. 7-8 Children's Disaster Services Workshop, Central United Methodist Church, Sedro-Woolley, Wash.

Oct. 9 Global Mission Offering Emphasis

Oct. 15-17 Mission and Ministry Board Meeting, Elgin, Ill.

Oct. 22 Decon Training, Quakertown Church of the Brethren, Quakertown, Pa.

Oct 28-30 Bethany Theological Seminary board of trustees meeting, Richmond, Ind.

Nov. 4 Fall Campus Visit Day, Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond, Ind.

No silver bullets in real life

TV shows need to resolve problems in 60 minutes. Real-life problems usually take a little longer to fix. Still, oversimplification aside, it's refreshing to find pop culture giving attention to mediation, as found in the TV show *Fairly Legal*.

"Characters Welcome" is the USA Network's tagline, and their *Fairly Legal*'s Kate Reed is, if nothing else, a character. The pilot episode's first scene opens with the "Wicked Witch of the West" theme song signaling a call from Kate's stepmother/boss, awakening her from her



LESLIE FRYE

slumber on a houseboat she inherited from her recently deceased, high-powered lawyer father. Rushing to make an appointment, she finds herself suddenly in the middle of a robbery, which she speedily resolves by suggesting that if the victim gives the robber a limited amount of cash, it will meet the robber's needs and save the victim the hassle of having to prevent the crime violently.

That's pretty much the show's *modus operandi*: a parade of personal issues with a little quick mediation thrown in.

Kate initially followed in her father's very large footsteps as a lawyer in his upscale San Francisco law firm. But she soon became convinced that the American legal system's adversarial approach was not the best way for justice to be served. Now she's the firm's lone mediator, advocating for a brand of justice in which people in conflict seek solutions with which everyone can be satisfied.

To her credit, Kate does get a few things right as a mediator. For example, she consistently explains that going through mediation to resolve differences is typically cheaper, quicker, and much more satisfying than going through the court system. More importantly, she does a good job of getting the parties involved to move past preconceptions of what they want, to listening and reflecting upon what they really need.

Sometimes, however, treacle and simplification nudge aside reality. In one episode, disputants in a custody case finally realized that they each loved the little girl they were fighting over, and wanted what was in the child's best interest. Kate left the parents and their daughter alone in

a conference room while she dealt with other crises. Later, we see the two former adversaries leaving together all smiles, obviously having reached a mutually agreeable solution. I have never mediated a custody case, but somehow I don't think that's how they usually pan out.

In most episodes, Kate quickly diagnoses the "real" problem, and then uses all her creative energy to come up with the perfect resolution. In the end, Kate's Lone Ranger-style approach wins the day, everyone's satisfied, and she returns to her houseboat or works through some personal issues with her soon-to-be ex-husband or her stepmother/boss.

I have to give the USA Network credit for exploring the world of alternative dispute resolution. When the television show *CSI* became popular, forensic science programs started popping up all over the place. If *Fairly Legal* inspires a similar interest in mediation as an interpersonal peacemaking tool, I will be thrilled. But just as I'm sure law enforcement officers are sometimes irritated by *CSI*, as a mediator, I find some aspects of *Fairly Legal* fairly aggravating.

First, the goal of mediation is not to see who can come up with the best win-win solution first. The goal of mediation is to help people in conflict hear and be heard so that they can break through the impasse between them.

Second, the role of the mediator is not to analyze the problem and find a solution. The role of the mediator is to control a process that empowers the participants to resolve their own problems. Mediator and trainer Gary Flory likes to say that if the mediator is working harder than the disputants, it's a sure sign that something is wrong.

Finally, it's misleading to imply that one brilliant insight or a creative solution to a problem will solve interpersonal issues. Working through conflict takes time. It's hard work. Sometimes we as individuals, families, or congregations get stuck, and it's helpful to enlist the help of a trained mediator. But when that happens, don't expect a Lone Ranger to come in with a quick fix. When it comes to mediation, there's no such a thing as a silver bullet. **W**

Leslie Frye works for On Earth Peace as the program coordinator for the Ministry of Reconciliation. She also mediates small claims cases for the Kansas Institute of Peace and Conflict Resolution and serves on the pastoral ministry team of the Monitor Community Church of the Brethren in Hutchinson, Kan.



ABOUT THE TV SHOW

Title: *Fairly Legal*. **Network:** USA. **Notes:** The one-hour drama stars Sarah Shahi as Kate Reed. It premiered January 20 of this year and ran through March 24. It has been renewed for a second season of 13 episodes, which will begin airing in 2012. **What others are saying:** Darren Franich, writing for *Entertainment Weekly*, described the show as "a perfectly prefabricated USA treat." Of Shahi's performance as Kate Reed, he observed she "makes you believe that the woman is simultaneously an anxious wreck and a brilliant mediator."

ONCAMPUS



Bridgewater College (Bridgewater, Va.)

Thanks to a Bridgewater College alumnus, Rotary International has a theme song for 2011. Aaron Garber of Salem, Va., who graduated from Bridgewater in 1995, composed music to underscore this year's theme: "Reach within to embrace humanity." Garber, who grew up in Weyers Cave, Va., and majored in music at Bridgewater, is a well-known composer, performer, and director.



Elizabethtown College (Elizabethtown, Pa.)

Michael Callaghan Pisapia, visiting assistant professor of political science at Elizabethtown College, won the American Political Science Association's William Anderson award for the best doctoral dissertation in the field of federalism, intergovernmental relations, state, or local politics completed in 2009 or 2010. The dissertation, "Public Education and the Role of Women in American Political Development, 1852-1979," examines the role of women during major transformations in American public education.



Juniata College (Huntingdon, Pa.)

The Juniata College Museum of Art received a \$7,190 grant from Heritage Preservation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services to fund participation in the institute's 2011 Conservation Assessment Program, and provide funding for two specialists to assess the museum's collection and building. The program assists museums by distributing funds for conservation specialists to identify needs for each museum's collection and building.



University of La Verne (La Verne, Calif.)

On June 24, the California Commission on Accreditation granted the University of La Verne's College of Education & Organizational Leadership (CEOL) full accreditation for seven years. "Because California standards for educator preparation are so high, the college was particularly gratified to hear very complimentary feedback about our accreditation review," said CEOL Dean Mark Goor.



Manchester College (North Manchester, Ind.)

Manchester College is once again a leader among the nation's colleges and universities for its volunteerism, service learning, and civic engagement. For the fifth year in a row, the school is on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The honor roll is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service.



McPherson College (McPherson, Kan.)

The visual arts program at McPherson College finished an unprecedented year that marked the most senior art and graphic design exhibitions the college has ever had. The college had to expand its exhibition schedule to include one show in the fall, one during interterm, and two shows in the spring. "Finding time and space to accommodate our growing program is the best kind of problem to solve," said Wayne Conyers, professor of art.

'Bubble Top King' sponsors McPherson scholarship

Darryl Starbird, world-renowned for his fantastic custom cars and national custom car shows, is now supporting that creativity with a new scholarship at McPherson College—which offers the world's only four-year degree in automotive restoration.

The first-ever Darryl Starbird Scholarship will award \$15,000 to incoming freshman Kala Tiemann of Lewis, Kan. "It's definitely going to open a lot of doors," Tiemann said.

Starbird's custom car legacy began in 1954 with the Star Kustom Shop in Wichita, Kan. He rose to national prominence through his unique bubble-topped creations starting with "The Predicta" in 1960—earning him the title of "The Bubble Top King." Starting in Wichita, Starbird started promoting rod and custom shows across the United States, including the Oakland Roadster Show and the Tulsa, Okla., show, which holds the title of largest indoor car show. Today, Starbird oversees the National Rod and Custom Car Hall of Fame museum in Oklahoma and creates new custom cars to display for it.

Now Starbird is giving back academically to the hobby that's treated him well through the years.

The Darryl Starbird Scholarship is awarded to an incoming freshman student in the automotive restoration department who demonstrates enthusiasm for restoration and preservation of history, has a strong sense of detailed craftsmanship, and shows outstanding artistry in their work—all qualities Starbird has exemplified throughout the years.

"Darryl Starbird has a storied history in the classic and custom car industry. He's made a name for himself with unique, quality work," said Brian Martin, director of automotive restoration development at McPherson College. "We're extremely pleased that Darryl is lending his name to support the development of young car enthusiasts."

Tiemann has an infectious excitement about classic cars. Her enthusiasm for automobiles started when she and her father would spend quality time working on oil changes and tune-ups when he was home from the Navy.

"That was kind of our thing," Tiemann said. "It carried over, and when I got my first car, all I wanted to do was work on it. I just loved getting my hands into everything and fixing it."

Tiemann originally planned to become a mechanic, but discovered that it didn't feed her artistic side as well. She found the perfect blend of artistry and mechanics when she discovered McPherson College. Tiemann learns best hands-on and said she can't wait to get to work at McPherson College.



Kala Tiemann is the winner of the first-ever Darryl Starbird Scholarship

McPherson College

A watershed moment?

We appreciate the many kind brothers and sisters who have expressed concern for us and for the denomination since Annual Conference. Yes, the nomination of a man from the floor by a former moderator was hurtful to us personally, but we probably could not have received more affirmation had

either of us been elected as moderator-elect! We also appreciate Robert Alley's visionary theme of extending the table, and his caring leadership throughout the Conference.

We remain concerned for our denomination that such blatant political maneuvering was used to ensure one's own particular position rather than trusting the processes of calling

through the Nominating and Standing Committees. We understand that five men turned down the invitation to be nominated from the floor. We thank those men who, like so many others, trusted the process and would never thwart a woman's leadership in our denomination.

We have heard that some, in their anger following Conference, have suggested that giving be withheld from the denomination. Please reconsider such a response! Our general secretary read a long list of ministries in his Annual Conference report that would be affected. Designate, if you must, but please continue funding so that fewer painful cuts have to be made.

Our hope and plea is that the anger and disillusionment from this year's Conference—from the election process to the adoption of a restrictive human sexuality paper that does not reflect the diversity of who we are as a denomination—be transformed into creative possibilities for the denomination and for those who are feeling unwelcome and abused.

Could this be a watershed moment for our denomination? Many persons and groups are trying to discern where God may be moving us. Indeed, the pain that we as a whole are experiencing may well be birth pangs, designed to keep us focused on the new life struggling to be born!

Let us never despair, for out of chaos, our God creates good things! So we live in hope—wounded and sad, wiser and called—to help bring forth a church which will unabashedly and courageously continue the work of Jesus . . . peacefully, simply, together.

Mary Cline Detrick, Harrisonburg, Va.

Carol Spicher Waggy, Goshen, Ind.

Pontius' Puddle



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When will we find Jesus' way?

The Special Response articles in MESSENGER provided several visions of understanding. However, the one from Harold Martin (March 2011) was disturbing. If one would substitute the word negro for homosexual in the article, would you have been willing to publish it? I think not. When that kind of lan-

guage is used to talk about other brothers and sisters, it should not be printed. If I were to read that and say, "So, that is the Church of the Brethren," why would I ever want to be a part of that body? It is my hope that someday we will find Jesus' way of living for our denomination, although the recent Conference action, for me, suggests that may be a long time coming.

By the way, I have been in the Church of the Brethren all of my life. I have served at the local, district, and denominational level, so I am not one who has no experience in the life of the church.

Thanks for the work you do.

Terry Slaubaugh
Bridgewater, Va.

A culture of intolerance

I have a few reflections on the business of Annual Conference, and our conduct there.

Overall, the business ran smoothly and people mostly conducted themselves with dignity and respect.

With two women on the ballot for moderator-elect, former moderator Jim Hardenbrook nominated a man, Bob Krouse, who was elected. Shame on both of you. No rules were broken; Robert's Rules are intact. But the spirit of the calling process was dishonored.

One of the quotes lifted up from the Special Response process was "I'm glad we don't have a pope to tell us what to do." This is ironic in the light of the fact that for at least 28 years almost no major piece of business has made it through Conference without being written by, amended by, or given the seal of approval by a single individual: Jim Myer. Makes one wonder why we bother getting together to vote.

A dear friend of mine experienced harassment and a death threat at Conference. My friend's offense: being called to, and serving in, a non-pastoral leadership role while being gay. We have allowed a culture of intolerance to grow and be nurtured in our corporate body. We have gotten to the place where folks who don't agree with "my way" of thinking are dehumanized,

allowing hatred and bigotry to seep in. Hatred and bigotry, even when we attempt to cover them with scripture, are still hatred and bigotry.

I heard great relief that the Special Response process resulted in no change in polity, so we avoided a big denominational split. While we may have avoided a split, I question our unity and, what's worse, I fear we're losing our soul.

Dave Wysong
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Our rich language heritage

Thank you so much for printing the article by Frank Ramirez, "On the Shoulders of Giants" (May MESSENGER). I always enjoy his writing. The history of the translation work and the Brethren history are fascinating. I am grateful for the rich language heritage we have, and for the scholarship of those who provide us this information. Thank you again.

Ann Carol Nash
South Bend, Ind.

Skip the kiss and just go

The decision of the delegates at Annual Conference 2011 to reaffirm the 1983 Statement on Human Sexuality as a continuing guide for Christians was, I believe, the final nail in the coffin of any attempt to continue a discussion of this hot issue. There is not even a scintilla of breath left in the poor thing.

In our local Ambler (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, it has been suggested that the opposing factions should consider giving one another the kiss of peace, declare an impasse, and then go their separate ways. I wonder if we should just acknowledge the sad reality that we are already split between those who want to welcome our gay brothers and sisters into the full fellowship of our love community, and those who want them symbolically sitting alone outside of the temple doors. I would just add, for those of you who believe homosexuality is a sin against God: Skip the kiss of peace and just go.

Edward Huber
Ambler, Pa.



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Did Paul really mean that?

Did the apostle Paul really mean that the Church of the Brethren should not have a woman moderator? It seems as though some of us feel that way, since a former moderator (male) put in a nomination from the floor for a male nominee for moderator-elect. While this act did not technically violate Robert's Rules, it did effectively subvert the thoughtful nomination process by our Standing Committee's Nominating Committee. Sadly, it also demonstrates that we still have prejudice against women in leadership positions. I remember Bill Hayes, years ago, refusing nomination to that office "until we have had a woman moderator." Would that this male nominee had had the conviction of Bill. He could still show his support of women in leadership by stepping down.

Howard A. Miller
 Westminster, Md.

What are you afraid of?

At some point in our younger days, many of us either participated in or were witness to a dialogue that went something like this:

"Whatcha doin'?"

"What's it to you?"

Sanding off the rough edges of the reply, I have a similar question for those who seem so obsessed with the issue of homosexuality in our church. Why does it matter to you that some of us believe our gay and lesbian brothers and sister deserve an equal place in the Kingdom, an equal opportunity to share in the life of the church in whatever role they may choose, and in all ways join with us in meeting the challenges Christ set forth?

What are you afraid of? I would really like to know. I sense a lot of fear underlying the comments on this issue. I can assure you that there is no agenda, just an ongoing struggle to follow the example of the great teacher.

ASK SOMEONE WHO HAS TRAVELED WITH US!

2011 TOURS

- MENNONITE STORY IN POLAND (August 9-17)
- VISIT UKRAINE with EDGAR STOESZ (Sept. 19-28)
- A PORTUGUESE PILGRIMAGE (September 20-30)
- EXPERIENCE IRELAND with the LEDERACHS (September 22-October 3)
- ISRAEL/PALESTINE with PASTOR GARRY JANZEN (October 14-23)
- FROM NAZARETH to ROME (November 10-22)
- BEHIND the VEIL-EXPERIENCING EGYPT with MEDA (November 14-26)
- OBERAMMERGAU CHRISTMAS MARKET (Dec. 7-11)

2012 TOURS

- AN ANTARCTIC EXPERIENCE (January 2-15)
- JAMAICA — ITS PEOPLE, NATURAL BEAUTY and FRUITS (January 20-29)
- GUATEMALA (February 24-March 4)
- VISIT MEXICO and ITS COPPER CANYON (March 9-18)
- EXPLORE SOUTH AMERICA (March 18-31)
- FOLLOWING the STEPS of MOSES (April 16-27)
- ISRAEL/PALESTINE with NELSON KRAYBILL (May 2-11)
- EUROPEAN HERITAGE with PAUL ZEHR (May 3-16)
- ALASKA CRUISE TOUR (June 7-18)

- GLORY of RUSSIA: MOSCOW & ST. PETERSBURG (July 3-13)
- EUROPEAN HERITAGE with JOHN RUTH (July 10-23)
- MENNONITE STORY in POLAND & UKRAINE (September 18-29)
- MEDA TOUR to ETHIOPIA & TANZANIA (Oct.12-22)
- SERVICE TOUR to ISRAEL/PALESTINE with PASTOR JAMIE GERBER (Oct. 13-22)
- ISRAEL/PALESTINE with NELSON KRAYBILL (Nov.12-21)
- VIETNAM and SINGAPORE (November 12-26)

2013 TOURS

- AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND (February 1-21)
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We may never reach a consensus on this issue. We have spent countless hours and exerted enormous amounts of energy that could have been directed to solving problems on which we could work together.

It is no exaggeration to say that my home congregation has been persecuted for our open and affirming stance, but it is also true that we are a stronger and more vibrant congregation than we ever were before this process began. I also believe that the vast majority of us would be willing to work along with our detractors, focusing on bringing sight to the blind, release to the captives, and good news to the poor.

Can't we just move on?

Leland Beery
North Manchester, Ind.

Sit at the far end of the table

The theme for this year's Annual Conference was: "Gifted with Promise: Extending Jesus' Table." It seems to me that, for a majority of the Conference del-

egates, this is to be interpreted: "Extending Jesus' table to women if they will please sit at the far end and not seek leadership. Extending Jesus' table to homosexuals if they will please join the women at the end of the table, behave appropriately, and not seek leadership." I am 88 years old and have been a female Brethren all my life. It is becoming increasingly difficult.

Martha Long
Bradford, Ohio

When did you choose?

In connection with the homosexual/heterosexual issue, it is instructive to look back into one's earlier life when sexuality was presumably determined. I look back into my own life and ask: When was it that I "chose" my sexual orientation? Was there a time when I struggled with the question, "Here on the one hand is the homosexual orientation. There on the other hand is the heterosexual orientation. Which shall I choose? Hmmm. I think I will choose . . . this one." There was no

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such time in my life. If any kind of determination was made, it would necessarily have been when I was *in utero*. From my earliest awareness, I knew that I was heterosexual. From what I can gather from homosexual friends and acquaintances, it was the same with them.

Where I live, persons with a homosexual orientation are good citizens in our town and are valued members of our local church. They make positive, important contributions. We heterosexuals may be sinful in our own way if we deny homosexuals an opportunity to serve our communities and our churches according to their strengths, talents, and beliefs.

Wilson B. Lutz
North Manchester, Ind.

CLASSIFIED ADS

We at Brethren Press would like to thank all the volunteers who helped us out at Annual Conference. To all of you who helped, from unloading the books to helping customers to tearing it all down at the end, we are grateful for and humbled by your generosity. Thanks to each and every one of the Brethren Press bookstore volunteers.

A **Connecting Families Weekend** is planned for March 30 - April 1, 2012 at Camp Myrtlewood near Bridge, Oregon. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their families and supporters are welcome. Through sharing stories we seek to support families whose children are coming out. We are committed to maintain confidentiality, to provide a safe place, and to be non-judgmental. The weekend is sponsored by the Brethren Mennonite Council (BMC), which works to engage our churches in dialogue and to help them understand and accept our families. For more information, contact bmcoregon@earthlink.net

New publication. Gerald and Lois Neher have just completed their book entitled: *Life Among the Chibok of Nigeria*. The Neher served the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria from 1954 to 1968. The book has over 600 pages and over 100 photographs and tells of the unwritten history and customs of the Chibok people. The book will be available and there will be a book signing at NOAC. The price of the book is \$39.95 plus shipping and handling. Send orders to Gerald Neher, 1111 Darlow Court, McPherson, Kansas 67460. Phone 620-504-6078

PASTORS NEEDED. Congregations in many of the denomination's 23 districts are in need of strong, trained Christian leaders who are dedicated to Church of the Brethren beliefs and practices to serve as pastor. The available placements are both full-time and part-time and include some associate/second staff positions. The congregations vary widely in size and program. A full listing of openings can be found at www.brethren.org/congregationalvacancies. Contact the appropriate district executive or call the Ministry Office at 800-323-8039.

Please send information to be included in *Turning Points* to Jean Clements, 1451 Dundee Ave, Elgin, IL 60120; 800-323-8039 ext. 206; jclements@brethren.org. Information must be complete in order to be published. Information older than one year cannot be published.

New Members

- Beachdale**, Berlin, Pa.: Ronald Bookes
- Beech Run**, Mapleton Depot, Pa.: Carl Naple, Verna Querry, Christopher Querry, Mark Drake, George Naegely, Orville Taylor, Suzann Keiser, Don Keiser
- Bethany**, New Paris, Ind.: Nancy Byler, Margaret Ridsen, Timothy Stutzman, Earl Yoder
- Brook Park**, Ohio: Pete Horner, Amber Fouser, Joey Manochi
- Clover Creek**, Martinsburg, Pa.: Brittany Chadwick, Kathryn Cuomo, Amy Banaszak, Bryan Corle, Sharon Corle, Joseph Donaldson, Nicky Keith, Jeff Lynn, Christine Lynn, Scott Stern, Ken Wyland, Yvonne Wyland
- Creekside**, Elkhart, Ind.: Darren Vance, Tiara Marcin, Joel McFadden, Isabela Rohrer
- Dixon**, Ill.: Alice Schultz
- Fairview**, Unionville, Iowa: Ryan Brinegar, Emily Hanes
- First Central**, Kansas City, Kan.: Bill Rhoads, Birdie Crathers
- Frederick**, Md.: Kathleen G. Ahlstrom, Robert D. Ahlstrom, Joni Brossart, Michael Cackowski, Stephanie Caffrey, Joy Chand, Megan Cronkite, Sam Cronkite, Eleanor Derstine, Paul Derstine, Laura Gordy, Jimmy Goucher, Molly Hayes, Lisa Hogan, Marty Hogan, Nicole Knox, Eric LePlatt, Melissa LePlatt, Christine K. Matzko, Elaine McGraw, Peter McGraw, Leslie Parente, Jeannine M. Shatzer, Tim Shatzer, Elizabeth Shaulis, Dawn Stevens, Jim Stevens, Laura Syes, Kristin Whyte, Emily Willard, Mike Willard, Margaret Zimmerman
- Green Hill**, Salem, Va.: Henry Platter
- Hagerstown**, Md.: Harvey Sprecher, Kevin Loy, Holly Loy, Patricia Cross, Mary Koberly
- Hanover**, Pa.: Heather Mull, Chad Mull
- Hartville**, Ohio: Caitlin Calhoun, Diane Send, Henna Thornberry, David Wallace
- Heidelberg**, Myerstown, Pa.: Lamar Eberly, Leigh Anne Eberly, Donald Eberly, Ella

- Eberly
- Hempfield**, Manheim, Pa.: Brenton Ebersole, Angela Ebersole, Dana Statler, Jen Statler
- Henry Fork**, Rocky Mount, Va.: Jody Smith, Heidi Smith, Tyler Smith, Ethan Smith, Keila Steele, Amanda Jennings, Susie Sloan, Wallace Chitwood, Kristen Chitwood, Bethany Martin, Lisa Hall, April Wyatt, Trey Wyatt, Kim Roope, Hanna Roope, Holly Roope, David Wyatt, Josh Hall, Carol Hall, Sheila Robertson, Greg Penn, Shannon Hunt, Shawn Hunt, Jeffery Hodges, Barry Jones, Dana Jones, Pat Siverson, Haley Ginther, Corey Pasley, Alexis Chitwood, Sam Morris, Jessica Morris, Madison Morris
- Ivy Farms**, Newport News, Va.: Chris Sexton, Dustin Hyde, Crystal Neal, Kyle Austin
- Jones Chapel**, Martinsville, Va.: Eli Fulcher
- Keyser**, W.Va.: Gene Cathell, Shirley Cathell
- Lakewood**, Millbury, Ohio: Dorothy Morris, Melody Morris
- Longmeadow**, Hagerstown, Md.: Christopher Neff, Jennifer Neff
- Meadow Branch**, Westminster, Md.: Deborah Watson
- Mechanic Grove**, Quarryville, Pa.: Wyatt Peinhardt, Ben Trimble, Marcus Hart, J. T. Shoemaker, Cordell Heidinger, Noelle Schneider, Morgan Perry, Mac MacKrell, Bonnie MacKrell, Chris Casadonti, Kat Casadonti, Rebekah Trimble, Kerri Kreider, Morgan Jackson, Jennifer Berkey, Shannon Houghton
- Mechanicsburg**, Pa.: Colin Thatcher
- Memorial**, Martinsburg, Pa.: Donna Klahre, Carol Bradley, Mary Gold, Andy Metzler, Heather Metzler
- Middle Creek**, Lititz, Pa.: Dean Bollinger
- Neighborhood**, Montgomery, Ill.: Joanne McCullough, Jocelyn Koley, Haley Douglas, Brenna Zoepfel, Calvin Leibrock, Evan Leibrock, Bill Jacobs, Jason McGraw, Amber Gaskins
- New Beginnings Christian Fellowship**, Lititz, Pa.: Seth Haldeman, Kyle Emler, Will Rohrer
- Quakertown**, Pa.: Ashley Donnelly, Jacob Dutterer, Meredith Vandegrift, Peg Richards
- Spring Run**, McVeytown, Pa.: Noah Reed, Zachary Knepp
- Union Center**, Nappanee, Ind.: Olivia Clem
- Westernport**, Md.: Jesse Shears
- Williamsburg**, Pa.: Jessica

- Edwards, Lauren White, Adam Miller, Paul Harclerode
- Woodbury**, Pa.: Ethan Echenroad, Sarah Fouse, Janelle Miller, Kirk Morningstar, Hannah Stiffler, Kenzie Teeter

Anniversaries

- Breisch**, Charles and Bonnie, Green Lane, Pa., 50
- Briggs**, Frank and Barbara, Frederick, Md., 60
- Brown**, Maurice and Jane Phyllis, Glen Arm, Md., 60
- Bryan**, Robert and Betty, Westernport, Md., 55
- Buckwalter**, Joe and Nancy, Lititz, Pa., 60
- Cassel**, Paul, Jr. and Velda, New Oxford, Pa., 55
- Claytor**, Dallas and Peggy, Dayton, Va., 60
- Cloud**, John and Leann, Harrisonburg, Va., 50
- Day**, Ed and Sandy, Frederick, Md., 50
- Deboy**, Gary and Beth, Rossville, Ind., 50
- Diehl**, Bill and Nancy, Mount Crawford, Va., 50
- Diller**, Carl and Anna, Willow Street, Pa., 60
- Erbaugh**, Samuel and Eileen, Brookville, Ohio, 65
- Evans**, Ross and Betty, Mechanicsburg, Pa., 60
- Geisbert**, Bill and Ruthanna, Frederick, Md., 55
- Graham**, Joseph and Mary, Inwood, W.Va., 50
- Hanes**, Glenn, Sr. and Doretha, Knoxville, Md., 60
- Harshbarger**, Paul and Evelyn, Lewistown, Pa., 70
- Heffner**, Steve and Edna, Keedysville, Md., 65
- Hendricks**, Doyle and Betty, Adrian, Mich., 60
- Keefer**, Robert and Elizabeth, Westminster, Md., 50
- Kettering**, George and Annabelle, Ashland, Ohio, 55
- Kline**, Jack and Louise, Bremen, Ind., 65
- Mathews**, Rolland and Nancy, Frankfort, Ind., 50
- McAdams**, Ron and Alberta, Union, Ohio, 50
- Millhimes**, Charles and Ruth C., Gettysburg, Pa., 60
- Myers**, Merlin and Marian, New Oxford, Pa., 72
- Myers**, Paul and Evelyn, Sacramento, Calif., 60
- Nealis**, Bob and Louise, Swanton, Md., 50
- Payne**, Daniel and Karen, Knoxville, Md., 60
- Plunkert**, Fred and Barbara, Merdith Vandegrift, Pa., 50
- Preston**, Charles and Carol, Martinsburg, W.Va., 50
- Renfrew**, Robert and Sue, Clarksburg, Md., 50
- Rice**, Carroll and Shirley, Monrovia, Md., 50
- Saunders**, David and Sylvia

Thomas, Mount Morris, Ill., 50
Simmons, Bob and Naomi, Brook Park, Ohio, 60
Southerly, Norman and Mary, Port Republic, Va., 55
Specht, Donald and Martha, Frederick, Md., 50
Thompson, William and Jacqueline, Hampstead, Md., 50
Tichnell, Bobby and JoAnn, Frederick, Md., 55
Vroman, Jack, Sr. and Emma, Pemberville, Ohio, 65
Whitcomb, Richard and Helen, Mechanicsburg, Pa., 65

Deaths

Adams, Nelson William, 82, Harrisonburg, Va., Feb. 11
Bair, Gehrie A., 60, Timberville, Va., May 6
Baker, Ronald Lee, 64, Lewistown, Pa., June 29
Bowman, Ray Samuel, 90, North Manchester, Ind., May 25
Bowman, S. Loren, 98, La Verne, Calif., June 17
Boyd, Mary Louise, 85, New Enterprise, Pa., July 5
Boyle, Mary K., 67, Ephrata, Pa., June 27
Clem, Dale, 90, Nappanee, Ind., April 9
Clouse, Bernice, 98, Montgomery, Ill., July 5
Colliflower, Susie V., 88, Hagerstown, Md., June 6
Commotes, Norma Leola Ebaugh, 96, Cumberland, Md., May 16
Conine, Herman L., 94, Muskegon, Mich., Aug. 22, 2010
Conine, Sara L., 93, Muskegon, Mich., April 30
Conrad, Berkley H., 85, Hagerstown, Md., June 30
Cordell, Charles William, 82, Waynesboro, Pa., April 24
Crawford, Mary, 76, Frederick, Md., Jan. 1
Dailey, Sandra Custer, 65, Bunker Hill, W.Va., May 17
Detwiler, Rosa, 97, New Enterprise, Pa., July 6
Dilling, Susanna, 92, Martinsburg, Pa., April 26
Drudge, Lawrence A., 77, Goshen, Ind., March 25
Dunmire, Janet K., 72, McVeytown, Pa., June 16
Earp, Stella Mae, 89, Martinsburg, W.Va., Feb. 26
Ebaugh, Harry Eugene, Sr., 85, Westminster, Md., May 11
Ebersole, Ralph Z., 85, Palmyra, Pa., June 1
Eicher, Elsie W., 83, Harrisonburg, Va., April 25

Evans, Ethel I., 91, Hartville, Ohio, Feb. 24
Fleck, Olive R., 93, Roaring Spring, Pa., May 26
Fogle, Ruth Virginia, 71, Hagerstown, Md., March 10
Ford, Naomi Catherine, 84, Bel Air, Md., June 14
Frazier, Dale Lamar, 84, New Paris, Ind., March 18
Freeman, Robert S., 83, Bassett, Va., April 13
Freeman, Theada A., 78, Johnstown, Pa., May 25
Freeman, Wendell Lee, 74, Johnson City, Tenn., May 28
Gipe, Richard T., Sr., 71, Shippensburg, Pa., Feb. 20
Gnagey, Fern, 89, Somerset, Pa., May 26
Gosnell, Fred Anthony, 88, New Windsor, Md., May 15
Gouker, Atlee Nelson, 100, Frederick, Md., March 9
Graves, Jane, 68, Wilbur, Wash., May 13
Grim, Rosetta L. Jordan, 77, Spring Grove, Pa., June 17
Grossnickle, Larry J., 61, Middletown, Md., Feb. 4
Guggenheim, Celia Marie Ryan, 100, Harrisonburg, Va., April 23
Harsher, Marietta Z., 90, Frederick, Md., March 4
Heindel, Ruby N., 93, New Oxford, Pa., June 16
Henry, Mary Kathryn, 95, Chambersburg, Pa., May 24
Hollenberg, Alfred Eugene, 86, Richmond, Ind., Sept. 20, 2010
Hopkins, Jesse E., Sr., 84, Pulaski, Va., Dec. 11
Hottinger, Jo Ann, 64, Mount Jackson, Va., May 15
Hough, Esther Roop, 89, Frederick, Md., March 22
Ingram, Robert S., 69, Bassett, Va., May 5
Jackson, Daisy B., 93, Camp Hill, Pa., April 22
Jackson, Judith J., 66, Willow Street, Pa., April 22
Kazimer, Sylvia J., 89, Shippensburg, Pa., May 2
Kegerreis, John H., 80, Myerstown, Pa., June 2
Krause, Ina H., 95, Dixon, Ill., May 20
Landis, Marion M., 98, Dayton, Ohio, May 13
Lantz, Nellie E., 84, Syracuse, Ind., June 5
Laverty, Leo Elwood, 91, Mechanicsburg, Pa., May 28
Layman, Mary Naff, 93, Rocky Mount, Va., June 17
Leedy, Catherine E., 84, Fayetteville, Pa., May 21
Lightner, Earl J., 75, Camp Hill, Pa., June 24

Lininger, Catherine Irene, 71, Frederick, Md., June 16
Loker, N. Arlene, 88, Harrisonburg, Va., Feb. 27
Lyons, Toby, 82, Uniontown, Pa., May 30
Mauzy, Twila Harman, 94, Harman, W.Va., April 19
McGolerick, George Frederick, 85, Keedysville, Md., April 12
Mee, Suk, 72, Lebanon, Pa., July 2
Metzler, Melvin L., 74, Manheim, Pa., June 29
Miller, Elizabeth Ann, 95, Cerro Gordo, Ill., June 28
Miller, Phyllis Louise, 79, Richmond, Ind., June 6
Murdock, Dorris, 83, Idaho City, Idaho, June 20
Myers, Donald E., 80, Alliance, Ohio, May 20
Myers, Naomi K., 89, York, Pa., April 17
Myers, Robert A., 74, Hagerstown, Md., Jan. 24
Myers, Roy, 88, York, Pa., May 30
Naragon, R. Raymond, 98, North Liberty, Ind., May 1
Neterer, Mabel M., 97, Goshen, Ind., June 3
Nusbaum, Dale William, 51, Lynn Haven, Fla., April 12
Petry, Naomi Pearl Heisey, 89, Greenville, Ohio, May 15
Pifer, Doris E., 66, Mechanicsburg, Pa., July 1
Plunkett, Nancy Geraldine, 86, Roanoke, Va., May 20
Polzin, Bertha Elizabeth, 91, Saginaw, Mich., May 29
Posthumus, Lola M. Wieland, 89, Grand Rapids, Mich., May 7
Powell, Dorothy M., 91, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, March 31
Quintrell, Paul D., 78, Harrisonburg, Va., June 17
Rummel, Helen Rumsey, 86, Manheim, Pa., June 11
Saylor, Mary Elaine Burkholder, 76, Saint John, Kan., July 7
Seese, Calvin K., 79, Alto, Mich., Nov. 15
Sekirka, Nancy K. Smith, 57, Plymouth, Ind., May 29
Shaffer, Edith K., 84, Gettysburg, Pa., May 17
Shearer, Rita Z., 76, Harrisburg, Pa., June 7
Shively, Vivian Jane Souders, 87, Mechanicsburg, Pa., May 16
Shrider, Paul F., 96, North Manchester, Ind., June 11
Smith, Anna, 85, Newville, Pa., Jan. 25
Smith, Helen L., 98,

Hagerstown, Md., June 28
Smith, Miriam Susan Kreider, 91, Palmyra, Pa., June 14
Snyder, Dorothy M., 86, Woodbury, Pa., June 14
Spearmen, Elmo Eugene, 78, Saint Petersburg, Fla., June 18
Stalter, Sherry Lynn, 61, Garden City, Kan., June 1
Steinmetz, Leo, 82, Widefield, Colo., April 13
Steward, Ethel A., 87, Martinsburg, Pa., May 30
Stickel, Lois, 85, Goshen, Ind., June 19
Strite, Laban Chester, 81, Florence, Ore., April 9
Thompson, Joshua Shane, 31, Chestertown, Md., May 19
Von Ehr, Nell, 89, Oswego, Ill., May 6
Wagner, Mary R., 97, Myerstown, Pa., June 24
Watkins, Roy E., 83, Berlin, Pa., May 11
Webster, Yvonne Estelle Cooper, 93, Harman, W. Va., May 14
White, Myrna Mae, 68, Taneytown, Md., June 14
Wickert, Dale S., 88, Dixon, Ill., June 9
Wilcox, Elmo M., Jr., 82, Newport News, Va., May 29
Wilson, Dorothy M., 83, Frederick, Md., Feb. 12
Wray, Kathleen Bowman, 91, Callaway, Va., March 17
Yokum, Troy Coolidge, 90, Harman, W.Va., April 24
Zurin, Samuel L., 90, Lancaster, Pa., June 12

Licensings

Adney, Ellen, S/C Ind. Dist. (Bethel Center, Hartford, City, Ind.), July 10
Ball, David, Shen. Dist. (Middle River, Fort Defiance, Va.), July 10
Barnett, David, Ill./Wis. Dist. (Virden, Ill.), May 29
Beauchamp, Kenneth, Atl. N.E. Dist. (Nuevo Amanecer Fellowship, Bethlehem, Pa.), June 5
Brumbaugh, Glenn A., S. Pa. Dist. (Mechanicsburg, Pa.), June 26
Castro, Nertha, Atl. N.E. Dist. (Nuevo Amanecer Fellowship, Bethlehem, Pa.), June 5
Colon, Julio, Atl. N.E. Dist. (Nuevo Amanecer Fellowship, Bethlehem, Pa.), June 5

Droz, Betzaida, Atl. N.E. Dist. (Nuevo Amanecer Fellowship, Bethlehem, Pa.), June 5
Munoz, Luisa, Atl. N.E. Dist. (Conestoga, Leola, Pa.), Jan. 31
Munoz, Wilfredo, Atl. N.E. Dist. (Conestoga, Leola, Pa.), Jan. 31
Plummer, Brady L., Mid. Pa. Dist. (Bedford, Pa.), June 26
Sanchez, Aida Lynmaris, Atl. N.E. Dist. (Nuevo Amanecer, Bethlehem, Pa.), June 5
Taylor, Kari, Mo./Ark. Dist. (Warrensburg, Mo.), Sept. 19, 2010
Thomas, Cheryl, N. Ind. Dist. (Pleasant Chapel, Ashley, Ind.), April 3
Thomas, Paul, N. Ind. Dist. (Pleasant Chapel, Ashley, Ind.), April 3

Ordinations

Elsea, Janet W., Shen. Dist. (Mount Pleasant, Harrisonburg, Va.), July 10
Hershberger, Stephen C., Mid. Pa. Dist. (Roaring Spring, Pa.), July 17
Painter, Homer Wayne, W. Pa. Dist. (Center, Champion, Pa.), June 26
Senkler, Christopher R., Pac. S.W. Dist. (Pasadena, Calif.), June 19
Smith, J. Trent, S. Ohio Dist. (Beavercreek, Ohio), June 26
Webster, Lucy Ann, W. Marva Dist. (Moorefield, W.Va.), May 15
Webster, Russell W., W. Marva Dist. (Moorefield, W.Va.), May 15

Placements

Adney, Ellen, pastor, Bethel Center, Hartford City, Ind., May 9
Ball, David, pastor, Middle River, Fort Defiance, Va., July 1
Bowers, Dale, associate pastor, Community Mission, Woodstock, Va., June 1
Crissman, Nathan D., pastor, Berkey, Windber, Pa., July 1
Davis, Denzil, from associate pastor, Oak Grove, Levels, W.Va., to pastor, Kelley Chapel, Rada, W.Va., May 15
Edwards, C. Richard, from pastor, Eden, N.C., to pastor, Pleasant View, Fayetteville, W.Va., July 1

What has become of us?

“We saw violence done today,” she said, seemingly out of the blue. I was standing in the Annual Conference bookstore following a business session when she approached.

She is a warm and caring woman I had known since I was in grade school in the Midwest. Brethren all her life, she and her husband had taught their three children the basic values of peace, service, and simple living.



RANDY MILLER
Interim Messenger Editor

Harsh words, I thought, when she first said them to me. Then, upon reflection, perhaps not.

Maybe, as a kid attending Annual Conference, I was unaware of the politics afoot in the delegate body, but it seems that there is a lot more meanness in the Church of the Brethren today. I don't remember, for instance, an announcement coming from the general secretary following evening worship that the life of

someone attending Conference had been threatened because of a disagreement over a matter of faith.

Things done in the name of the Church of the Brethren in Grand Rapids this summer caused me to reflect on lessons my Sunday school teachers had taught me. I'd learned about John Kline and his courageous stance for peace during the Civil War. And Dan West and the roots of Heifer

still a church that regards the New Testament as its only creed, because it appears that growing numbers of Brethren want to gauge members by criteria outside the teachings of Jesus in the New Testament. One young Brethren pastor I spoke with at Conference expressed dismay that leaders at a recent district youth event did not provide a post-worship altar call. And he raised an eyebrow about the faith of worship leaders at the most recent National Youth Conference who did not ask participants to open their Bibles at every service. It seems that for some there are certain hoops *beyond* the New Testament—a litmus test, of sorts—through which members must jump today in order to be considered by some to be acceptable Christians, let alone Brethren. It amounts to coercion, really, something Brethren have long frowned upon.

We pride ourselves for being “in” the world, but not “of” the world, and yet some of the tactics witnessed in Grand Rapids to drive forward certain items on the agenda (and some brought from the floor) bore a striking resemblance to worldly, smoke-filled, backroom politics. Indeed, some of the actions taken on the floor of Conference this summer seemed to bear a faint whiff of nicotine, as if they'd been borne more of covert scheming than covenantal discernment of the will of the Holy Spirit. It appeared minds were made up well in advance of Conference, never mind any inclination the Spirit may have had to “Move in our Midst,” during the gathering.

What has become of the church of our forebears? What has become of *us*? Are we a “historic” peace church that

JESUS CLEARLY TOLD US THAT MIGHT, POWER, AND BIG NUMBERS DON'T EQUAL “RIGHT.” HE WAS ALWAYS SIDING WITH THE OUTCAST, THE LITTLE GUY, AND THE POOR. **HAVE WE LOST SIGHT OF THAT MESSAGE?**

Project—an outgrowth of the Brethren emphasis on service to those in need. And the strides M. R. Zigler made in providing conscientious objectors to war a path to pursue in keeping with their Brethren upbringing. And of course Anna Mow, whose very presence exemplified openness and acceptance everywhere she went, including my Brethren Volunteer Service orientation unit.

But, witnessing the dynamics at work in Grand Rapids, I couldn't help but wonder what these forerunners might make of the decisions made by the delegate body (and, at times, the manner in which they were made), for they often seemed at odds with the church in which I had grown up.

I caught myself wondering, among other things, if we are

has now adopted the ways of the world? One can only wonder what our children and youth are learning as they witness our behavior, where cutthroat politics and death threats are becoming the norm. Have we become a denomination more accepting of bullies than the bullied?

Jesus clearly told us that might, power, and big numbers don't equal “right.” He was always siding with the outcast, the little guy, and the poor. Have we lost sight of that message?

Some people drove home from Conference relieved and satisfied. Others were deeply wounded there, and left anguished and disillusioned. With which group, do you suppose, my old Sunday school teachers would tell me Jesus would identify? ❧

COMING IN OCTOBER: Brethren's pivotal role in Decade to Overcome Violence, New Testament-church Bible study series, reflections, media review, letters, and more.



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Nick Miller Kauffman,
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“I worked in local medical clinics *and spent a lot of time with children from impoverished families. The kids were always upbeat and a joy. . . . Spending time with them and the doctors truly reaffirmed my desire to become a doctor and work in economically poor areas throughout the world.”*

Matthew Lambton, *Juniata College*
BCA India, fall 2010

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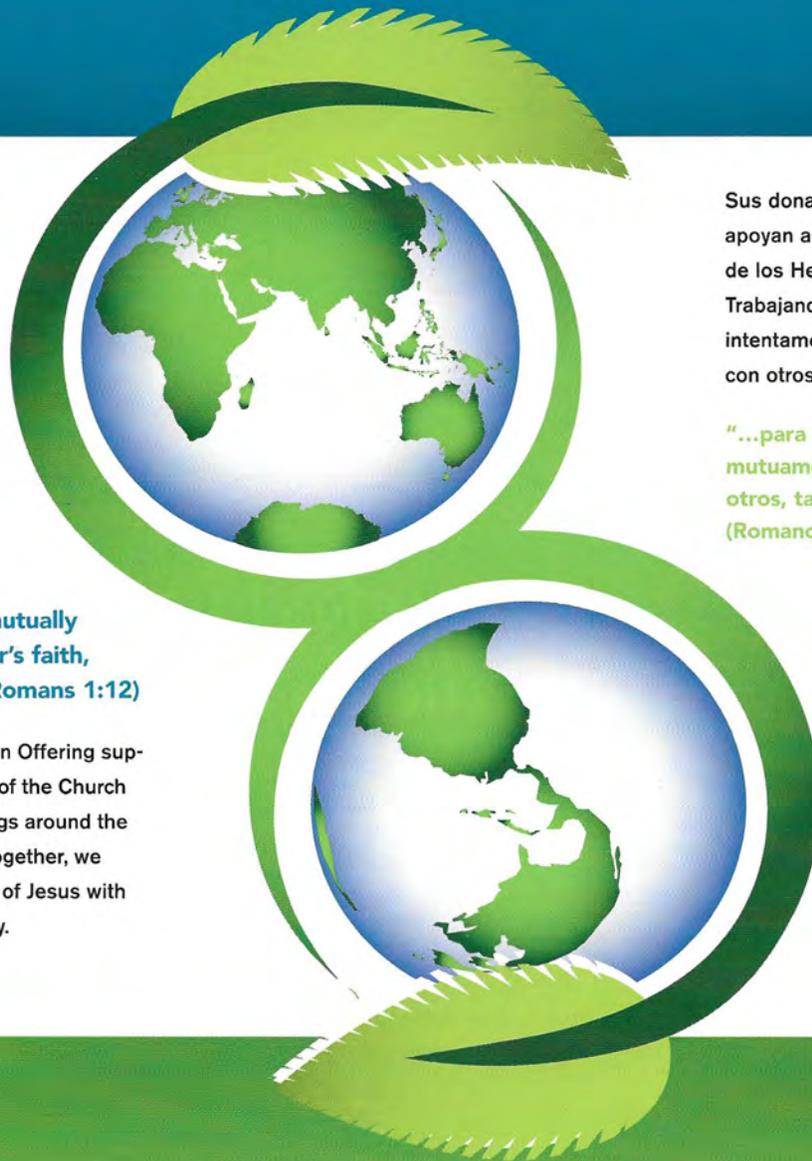
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*"...para que podamos ser fortalecidos mutuamente por la fe de los unos por los otros, tanto la vuestra como la mía."
(Romanos 1:12)*

CRECIENDO JUNTOS PARA COMPARTIR EL GRAN MENSAJE DE JESÚS